

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING SUE WAGNER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sue Wagner of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Ms. Wagner is a retired teacher of the Saint Joseph School District and in a few days will receive the Saint Joseph YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Women in Community Service and Volunteerism.

Although she retired from teaching, Ms. Wagner is still extremely active in the community. She regularly reaches out to and positively impacts students throughout the Saint Joseph area. Ms. Wagner currently serves as a student mentor, a Cotillion for Achievement committee member, and a volunteer docent for the Albrecht-Kemper Art Museum. Through her hard work, Ms. Wagner has touched the lives of over 500 students this year.

Ms. Wagner also serves as an affiliate director for Missouri Future Problem Solving, directing a competition program for the State of Missouri. She serves on multiple committees and organizations ranging from Community LINK, to SAGE, to Trails West, to the Landmarks Commission. In addition to all of these commitments, Ms. Wagner still finds time to serve as president of her local neighborhood association.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Sue Wagner. Her commitment to the Saint Joseph community exemplifies the qualities of service and dedication. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO LONNIE MCCOY BRIGHT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the accomplishments of Lonnie McCoy Bright. Lonnie McCoy Bright, affectionately known as "Coy," is a native of Belleross, North Carolina. He is the son of the late Zerus and Lona Mae Bright, and was raised in New York City. He received his education in the New York City public schools, culminating with his graduation from George Westinghouse Vocational High School. Then, he devoted 30 years of loyal service to United States Postal Service.

Mr. Bright is a former Board member of the NAACP Brooklyn Branch, a founding member and Treasurer of Congressman Edolphus Towns' Men's Caucus, former Treasurer and Worshipful Master of the African 459 Lodge #63, and President Emeritus of the Masters Council.

Currently, Mr. Bright is an active, dedicated member of the Berean Baptist Church. He is

on the Trustee Board and serves as the Treasurer of the church. He has organized numerous voter registration drives in his community, East New York, and the Bedford-Stuyvesant sections of Brooklyn. He has also sponsored "Making Books Come Alive" a day of reading and dramatizing stories for children. He loves to cook and is an annual participant in the Men Who Cook-Cook-Offs.

His greatest love, after his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is his wife Vivian Y. Bright, and they are the proud parents of Teresa, Gary, James (deceased), Marvin Jamal and Tiffany.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Mr. Bright's remarkable leadership and service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COLORADO GOLF HALL OF FAME

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame and its newly acquired home at the Riverdale golf courses in Brighton.

As an avid golfer I could not help but notice this news, and at the risk of allowing my love of the game to get the better of me, I think it is appropriate to acknowledge the positive contributions that golf has made to communities.

The Colorado Golf Hall of Fame has been in operation for 33 three years and has honored 107 members. Yet, due to a space constraint, the golf memorabilia had been stored in boxes at the Colorado Golf Association headquarters, unavailable for public viewing. Thanks to the combined efforts of the Riverdale Golf courses, Adams County Board of Commissioners, the Colorado Golf Association and the Hall of Fame President, John Edwards, the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame is now featured in a prominent display within the Riverdale golf courses clubhouse.

The Hall of Fame honors the 107 deserving members who have made important contributions to Colorado's sports history. Pictures of each hall of fame member are now front and center under glass in the clubhouse of the Riverdale golf courses. In addition, the Hall of Fame showcases multiple displays honoring golf greats, highlights in golf history and a golf history timeline. The current displays honor female golfer Mildred "Babe" Zacharias and the history of Cherry Hills Country Club.

Hall of Famer and winner of three Colorado Opens, Bill Bisdorf remarked, "If you don't have something like this, it's forgotten, just like everything else. It's out of sight, out of mind."

Thanks to the hard work of many, Colorado's rich golf history will no longer be "out of sight, out of mind." It is very exciting for golf-enthusiasts like myself to have access to that history. What is more, it provides just another excuse to play at the Riverdale courses,

the Dunes and the Knolls—two of the finest public courses in Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking Riverdale Golf Courses and the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame for creating a fitting location to preserve and display Colorado's golf history and artifacts.

RECOGNIZING AMANDA GUMM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Amanda Gumm. In a few days, Ms. Gumm will receive the Saint Joseph YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Future Leaders.

Amanda is currently a student at Benton High School and has served as Student Body President. As Student Body President, Amanda was responsible for reading the daily announcements to all of Benton High School; I've been told that one faculty member cited Amanda as quite possibly the best public speaker Benton has seen in years. She is also widely recognized for her positive attitude and dynamic personality, and motivates her peers to excel.

Amanda aspires to be the Governor of Missouri, and recently received the 2005 Missouri Award for Outstanding Achievement in Citizenship. Amanda will soon join the other recipients of the award and their families for a luncheon at the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Amanda Gumm. Her commitment to excellence exemplifies the qualities of service and dedication. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS E. CAVE, SR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Thomas Cave for his outstanding community service. Mr. Cave is a native of Augusta, Georgia, and has been a resident of the Bedford-Stuyvesant community for the past fifty-five years. In Bedford-Stuyvesant, he has volunteered his time and shared his experience in order to improve the quality of life of his community. He is particularly concerned with the plight of youth and senior citizens.

Mr. Cave has served the Unity Democratic Club for over twenty-five years as Chairperson of the Men's Council and President of the Club for four years. Under his tutelage several programs were created, including the Scholarship Program at Boys and Girls High School, and the Chess Club Program at P.S. 5.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Cave has received many awards, including Learning Leader from P.S. 5 for his dedication and commitment to the school and community. He has also secured a Certificate of Recognition from State Senator Ada L. Smith and the Exemplary Service Award from Unity Democratic Club.

In addition to his political and civic involvement, Mr. Cave is an avid traveler and devoted family man. As a result, we proudly recognize him today.

CONGRATULATING ROCHE ON ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE
UNITED STATES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations in honor of the 100 Anniversary of Roche, one of the leading healthcare innovators in the world. Roche is a specialty care company that employs over 10,000 people in America and 60,000 globally. I am pleased that Boulder is home to Roche Colorado, which employs over 300 people, all of whom are dedicated to improving the quality of health care for millions of people.

For a century now, Roche has invested in advanced research and manufacturing techniques that have yielded breakthroughs in healthcare. Founded in Switzerland in 1896, Roche's roots in America are deep and strong, dating back to the opening of its New York office in 1905. From its start in Manhattan in 1905, Roche has extended its reach to nine sites across the United States, in Colorado, New Jersey, Indiana, South Carolina, and California.

As an industry leader, Roche Colorado researches and manufactures products such as the first in an entirely new class of drugs to combat HIV, a potent oral antiviral that is our most promising weapon against the threat of pandemic influenza, and a treatment that preserves the sight of people with AIDS infected with a virus that usually leads to blindness. These inventions are just a few examples of how Roche helps provide Americans with the highest quality medical treatment in the world.

Roche's ties to Boulder date back to 1946 as Arapahoe Chemicals and subsequently Syntex, which joined Roche in 1994. I applaud Roche Colorado for being an active corporate citizen, supporting the Boulder County AIDS Project, the Women's Health Project, and the Grillo Information Center which provides educational help to individuals suffering from cancer, all efforts that truly enhance our quality of life in Boulder and build our sense of community.

I commend the people of Roche Colorado in Boulder and Roche employees worldwide for their impressive achievements, and wish them the very best on this special 100th Anniversary.

THE AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE
WITHDRAWAL OF AMBASSADOR
EVANS' AWARD

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to express my disappointment with the American Foreign Service Association, and its decision to withdraw awarding a "Constructive Dissent" award to U.S. Armenian Ambassador John Evans.

Ambassador Evans was due to receive the Christian A. Heter Award for intellectual courage, initiative, and integrity later this week. The award was a result of courageous statements he made regarding the recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

In a series of public statements, Ambassador Evans, who has studied Russian history at Yale and Columbia and Ottoman history at the Kennan Institute, stated, "I will today call it the Armenian Genocide." Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Evans has studied the history of Armenia, and based on his substantial studies of the issue, he was willing to go on the record and define the actions taken against Armenians as genocide.

The Armenian Genocide was the systematic extermination—the murder—of one-and-one-half million Armenian men, women and children.

To this day, the Republic of Turkey refuses to acknowledge the fact that this massive crime against humanity took place on soil under its control, and in the name of Turkish nationalism.

Unfortunately, some 90 years later, the U.S. State Department continues to support Turkey's denials despite all evidence to the contrary. It's not likely that the State Department was happy with their Ambassador to Armenia acknowledging the Armenian Genocide. Therefore, Evans retracted his remarks after receiving substantial pressure from the State Department.

Well, now the selection committee at the American Foreign Service Association has decided to withdraw the award with no reason for its actions. I find the timing of the decision peculiar. The sharp turnaround came right before Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Washington for a meeting with President Bush. Based on past history, it's clear that the State Department, the Bush Administration, and the powerful pro-Turkish lobby pressured A-F-S-A to withdraw Ambassador Evans' Award.

It is simply unacceptable for this administration to continue to penalize the ambassador for his comments. Ambassador Evans did a courageous thing; his statements did not contradict U.S. policy, but rather articulated the same message that this Administration has sent to the public. The only difference in this case is that Ambassador Evans assigned a word to define the actions taken against the Armenians.

This was a refreshing break from a pattern on the part of the State Department of using evasive and euphemistic terminology to obscure the full reality of the Armenian Genocide. Ambassador Evans pointed out that, "No American official has ever denied it," and went on to say that, "I think we, the U.S. govern-

ment, owe you, our fellow citizens a more frank and honest way of discussing this problem."

Ambassador Evans was merely recounting the historical record, which has been attested to by over 120 Holocaust and genocide scholars from around the world. By doing this, he earned a prestigious award that was taken from him because of politics and denial.

I want to add my voice to all those who, in Ambassador Evans' own words, (and I'm quoting) "think it is unbecoming of us as Americans to play word games here. I believe in calling things by their name." Evans was right, and the American Foreign Services Association was correct in awarding him the Christian A. Heter Award. We should encourage our Ambassadors to speak the truth, and, more broadly, end, once and for all, our complicity in Turkey's campaign of genocide denial.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Evans has been penalized for telling the truth. The American Foreign Service Association has set a terrible example by retracting Ambassador Evans' award. I guess even in America the Turkish Government is able to stifle debate.

[From the California Courier]

RESCINDING OF "DISSENT" AWARD TRIGGERS
INTERNATIONAL UPROAR

(By Harut Sassounian)

Last week, in this column, I disclosed the news that the American Foreign Service Association had just reversed itself, taking the unprecedented step of withdrawing the "Constructive Dissent" award from John Evans, the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia.

This was a shocking development, as this award is given to high-ranking diplomats for their "intellectual courage, initiative and integrity in the context of constructive dissent [and] for demonstrating the courage to speak out and challenge the system on a subject related to their work."

Last February, Ambassador Evans had forthrightly and appropriately referred to the Armenian Genocide, as a genocide, to the chagrin of the Turkish government and its supporters in the Bush administration. It was highly ironic that the U.S. Ambassador would lose this award for the very reason that it was given to him in the first place—"dissent." So much for encouraging honesty and integrity at the State Department.

I posted my last week's column on the groong web site in the evening of June 6, a couple of hours after being informed by AFSA that it had just decided to rescind the award. Little did I know then that within a couple of days, my column would trigger a national and international uproar and would be picked up by scores of newspapers and wire services from around the world, such as the Washington Post, the Associated Press, the UPI, Hurriyet, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Turkish Daily News, AzerTag (Azerbaijan), Webindia123 (India), and Armenian newspapers in several countries. Even the spokesman for the State Dept., Sean McCormack, was asked about this controversial issue during his daily press briefing on June 9.

Despite attempts AFSA and State Dept. officials to cover up the real reasons for the withdrawal of the award, it has become clear that the award was rescinded after direct pressure was brought to bear on AFSA from the State Dept. When John Limbert, the president of AFSA, was asked by the Washington Post to explain the reason for his group's action, he replied: "State Department officials would have to explain their concerns." The Award Committee is composed of current and former State Department officials. L. Bruce Laingen, who

chaired the selection committee, was more forthcoming.

He told the Post that "very serious people from the State Department in particular" expressed concerns about this award being given to Amb. Evans. Laingen said that the award committee had not focused on the criterion that dissent had to be expressed within the system, until it was reminded of that by the State Department!

Once again, as a result of the over-reaction of Turkish officials and their Washington cronies, the issue of the Armenian Genocide was publicized worldwide. All of the above newspapers and wire services, even the Turkish and Azeri ones, reported that the award had been withdrawn from Amb. Evans because of his comments on the Armenian Genocide. The Washington Post wrote that Amb. Evans had characterized "as genocide the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians in the waning days of the Ottoman Empire in 1915." It included in its article lengthy quotations from the statements Amb. Evans had made last February on the Armenian Genocide—the same quotations that I had cited in my last week's column.

The Washington Post also wrote: "the timing of the association's decision appeared curious, given it came just before Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Washington for a meeting with President Bush to bolster strained U.S.-Turkish relations. John W. Limbert, president of the association, said that no one at the organization can remember an award being withdrawn after it had been announced. 'It is not something we do easily,' he said."

Ironically, if the State Department thought that by withdrawing this award it would avoid the awkward situation of honoring the U.S. ambassador to Armenia for acknowledging the Armenian Genocide, at a time when the Turkish Prime Minister was meeting with Pres. Bush, it actually ended up creating a bigger embarrassment, as the national and international media reported AFSA's controversial decision, while the Turkish leader was still in Washington.

By withdrawing the "Dissent" award, AFSA and the State Department made fools of themselves in front of the whole world. Their unwarranted action not only undermined the credibility of the award, but also the reputations of both AFSA and the U.S. government which acted in this case with intolerance more typical of oppressive third world regimes.

[From the California Courier]

FOREIGN SERVICE AGENCY WRONGLY
WITHDRAWS AWARD FROM AMB. EVANS

(By Harut Sassounian)

The American Foreign Service Association took the very unusual step this week of rescinding the prestigious "Constructive Dissent" award that it had decided to bestow upon U.S. Ambassador to Armenia John Evans, during a special ceremony that was to be held at the Benjamin Franklin Diplomatic Reception Room of the State Department on June 17.

The AFSA is the professional association of the United States Foreign Service. It represents 26,000 active and retired Foreign Service employees of the Department of State and Agency for International Development. The Secretary of State usually attends the group's annual award ceremony.

Last February, during his tour of various Armenian communities in the United States, Amb. Evans publicly referred to the extermination of the Armenians in Ottoman Turkey as genocide. "I will today call it the Armenian Genocide," the U.S. Ambassador said. "I informed myself in depth about it. I think

we, the U.S. government, owe you, our fellow citizens, a more frank and honest way of discussing this problem. Today, as someone who has studied it, . . . there is no doubt in my mind what happened. . . . I think it is unbecoming of us, as Americans, to play word games here. I believe in calling things by their name." Referring to "the first Genocide of the 20th century," Amb. Evans said, "I pledge to you, we are going to do a better job at addressing this issue."

Amb. Evans knew that his frank comments ran counter to the official line of recent U.S. administrations that have avoided using the term genocide to characterize the mass killings of Armenians. After complaints from Turkish officials to the U.S. government, Amb. Evans was forced by his superiors to issue "a clarification," stating that he used the term "genocide" in his personal capacity—and he now found that to be "inappropriate." To make matters worse, Amb. Evans was then forced to correct his clarification, replacing the word "genocide" with "Armenian tragedy."

Since Amb. Evans had dared to challenge the position of his own superiors, he was nominated for the AFSA's coveted "Constructive Dissent" award. The AFSA's web site explains that this award "publicly recognizes individuals who have demonstrated the intellectual courage to challenge the system from within, to question the status quo and take a stand, no matter the sensitivity of the issue or the consequences of their actions." The AFSA states: "The purpose of the Dissent Awards is to encourage Foreign Service career employees to speak out frankly and honestly." It also states that the Constructive Dissent Awards "offer an opportunity to publicly recognize and honor the courageous and thoughtful actions of our colleagues, over and above their responsibilities."

Last week, Hayagan Jamanag, a newspaper published in Yerevan, reported that Amb. Evans was the winner of this year's "Constructive Dissent" award. Since the name of the honoree was not yet officially announced, I contacted the AFSA in Washington, D.C., and was told that Amb. Evans was indeed the winner of this prestigious award. I was also told that he was selected because of his stand on the Armenian Genocide.

As this column was about to go to print, I received an unexpected call from an AFSA official in Washington, informing me that the Award Committee had just met and decided to reverse itself and "withdraw the award" from Amb. Evans. When I asked why, the answer was "no comment."

We can safely speculate that the same cast of characters at the upper echelons of the Bush Administration, who had earlier forced Amb. Evans to withdraw his remarks on the Armenian Genocide, had now succeeded in forcing the AFSA to rescind this award.

Incredibly, what they were taking away from Amb. Evans was not just any award. It was an award for dissenting from the Bush administration's immoral position on the Armenian Genocide. It was an award for simply telling the truth. Amb. Evans was basically repeating what President Ronald Reagan had said back in 1981 in his Presidential Proclamation, acknowledging the Armenian Genocide. It would seem that Bush administration officials are not afraid to go after an Ambassador, but they would not dare to take on President Reagan who committed the same sin of telling the truth!

It is a telling sign of decadent times that an individual has to be given an award for having "the courage" to tell the truth—and worse yet, have that award unfairly taken away from him.

All those who side with truth and justice, should complain to the AFSA

(berger@afsa.org) for its withdrawal of Amb. Evans' award and ask that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (<http://contact-us.state.gov>) have it reinstated promptly.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA FISHER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua Fisher of Weston, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Joshua achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on October 14, 2004.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years that Joshua has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

For his Eagle Scout project, Joshua organized the creation of a new welcome sign, the pouring of concrete slabs for picnic tables, and the installation of a new flag pole with lighting around it, all at Bless Park in Weston.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua Fisher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. ROGER WITHERSPOON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Roger Witherspoon. Dr. Witherspoon completed his undergraduate studies at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He is a graduate of Adelphi University's Graduates School of Social Work in Garden City, New York and earned his doctorate degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dr. Witherspoon previously was Associate Dean of Student Affairs at CUNY Lehman College. He is currently the Vice-President of Student Development at CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice where his responsibilities include chairing the Communication Skills and Counseling Department, administrative oversight of Student Activities, Freshman Program, Children's Center, Career Advisement, Women's Center, Disabled Student Services, Financial Aid, Health Services, Co-op Education/Internships, and Student Support Services.

Prior to his appointment as Vice-President, Dr. Witherspoon taught both graduate and undergraduate courses in education and social work for over 17 years. He has lectured at Columbia University, St. John's University, San Francisco State, Smith College, Fordham University, and many others. His publications on

urban education have appeared in national and local journals. Two of his recent publications are "Do You Know If Your Child Has a Credit Card," in the *New York Times* and "Handling Cultural Diversification Efforts of College Campuses," in the *Journal of Mediation*.

Dr. Witherspoon was a member of the Board of the Queens Children's Psychiatric Center. He has also served on many boards that include childcare, teen pregnancy, and community mental health.

Dr. Witherspoon was selected as a participant in the 23rd Annual Session of the Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management, Class of 1992.

Dr. Witherspoon has participated in conferences held on "International Perspectives: Crime, Justice and Public Order" in Russia, Ireland, Turkey, Italy, England, Hungary and most recently Romania. He was involved in the establishment of a branch campus in Puerto Rico that has awarded 4,400 Associates Degrees to police cadets and currently a program for New York City Police Officers to teach cultural diversity and leadership.

Dr. Witherspoon has been involved at national and local levels consulting on issues of urban education and social work, with a focus on urban minorities. His visits to South Africa, Ireland, Dominican Republic, Namibia, Turkey, South Korea, Slovenia, England, Guyana, Jamaica, and throughout the Caribbean have only increased his awareness of International Education and Criminal Justice.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Roger Witherspoon's continued his commitment to higher education and social development have made him more than worthy of our recognition today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, because participating in events connected to the ongoing meeting of Western Governors in Colorado, I was unable to be present for two votes on Monday, June 13, 2005.

If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

On S. 643, to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to reauthorize State mediation programs, I would have voted "yes."

On H.R. 2326, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 614 West Old County Road in Belhaven, North Carolina, as the "Floyd Lupton Post Office," I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO MRS. LIZ KOVACH, FOR HER 50 YEAR COMMITMENT TO PORT COLUMBUS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the tremendous achievement of Liz Kovach, a successful and

respected employee at the Port Columbus International Airport. As an ambassador to the Airport Authority and Columbus, Ohio she has represented Eastern Airlines, Continental Airlines and America West for half a century with first class style.

Mrs. Kovach began her career at Port Columbus exactly 50 years ago today working for Eastern Airlines at the old terminal on Fifth Avenue. In late 1990, when Eastern Airlines declared bankruptcy, Liz's diligence and dedication were greatly appreciated when she assisted with the liquidation of the airline's assets before being hired by Continental Airlines in April of 1991. Her career again took off in November of 1992 when she accepted a new position with America West. Her effervescent character and strong intellect were recognized in 1993, as she was honored by America West as the Best of the Best Employees. She was one of only two customer service representatives to receive the honor out of 10,000 employees.

In Liz's 50 year commitment to Port Columbus, she has been witness to the transformation of the airline industry. She has seen the airport rise to "international status," its entrance into the Jet age, concourse and runway expansion, and the completion of the new state-of-the-art control tower.

Mrs. Kovach, respectively known as "Mama Liz," is revered by her colleagues as someone you can always count on for a smile and kind words. She has been described as an irreplaceable talent to the customer service team. In addition to her noted superior work ethic and admirable character, she has been very active with the Columbus Zoo. Through her perseverance, she negotiated the travel of rare animals by plane to be brought to the zoo.

I am grateful for the time, commitment and grace Liz has given to Port Columbus International Airport and her community. She exemplifies what public service and professionalism are all about.

RECOGNIZING ALEXANDER J. MCCURN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander J. McCurn of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander J. McCurn for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER FLYNN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jennifer Flynn. For close to two years, Jennifer Flynn ended her workday by standing for six hours in front of New York City's largest welfare center. She and other activists took their place on the sidewalk whether it rained or snowed to protest the lack of legally mandated emergency housing for homeless people living with AIDS.

Ms. Flynn is one of 10 outstanding individuals from across the country chosen to receive this year's Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program award.

The unusual strategy, combined with litigation and public education, resulted in the City being found in contempt of a court order—and insured that nearly every homeless New Yorker living with AIDS who needed emergency housing received it.

Ms. Flynn didn't stop there. She went on to co-found and direct the New York City AIDS Housing Network (NYCAHN), which has seen to it that housing is provided to every single New Yorker with HIV/AIDS who requests shelter.

HIV has hit low-income people of color harder than any other demographic group in New York City. A full 92 percent of New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS are from communities of color.

Of Ms. Flynn, Christine Quinn, Councilmember for the 3rd District says: "Jennifer Flynn has managed to be a constant activist for the rights of homeless and low-income people living with HIV/AIDS, while building an organization in this time of financial hardship. She is fearless in her advocacy."

Teaching people with HIV/AIDS to advocate on their own behalf has been key to Ms. Flynn's success. In fact, NYCAHN is a membership organization led by people living with HIV/AIDS. She has trained more than 1,000 of NYCAHN's members in community organizing and advocacy.

Recently, she and her staff pressured the New York City Council to release a report about its emergency housing system. NYCAHN's efforts led to the introduction of the first bill in U.S. history that insures permanent housing for people living with AIDS/HIV. She has also exposed the dangerous conditions that exist in illegal rooming houses the City was using to house formerly incarcerated people with AIDS/HIV.

One woman who works at NYCAHN and finds shelter for people living with HIV/AIDS every day says, "We are all willing to do this grueling work because we know that Jennifer is working 10 times harder all of the time. She is there fighting with her heart to make sure that we have access to housing and to our human rights."

The Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program distributes \$1.2 million each year to innovators who have creatively surmounted obstacles to meet the challenges of providing health care and social services to the underserved members of their communities. Ms. Flynn and this year's other winners will be honored at a June event in Washington, D.C. She will receive \$105,000 to

apply to her program and a \$15,000 personal award.

Ms. Flynn was chosen from nearly 700 people nominated this year. Since 1992, the program has given 133 awards in 45 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. Award winners are nominated by civic leaders, health professionals, government representatives and others inspired by their efforts to provide essential health services to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Flynn is motivated by the disparity and inconsistencies that she observes in her community. She believes that a commitment to help those who are regarded as less fortunate is a small price to pay. Her commitment in turn inspires others to continue to strive for a better future. Ms. Flynn is more than worthy of our recognition today.

THE CARIBBEAN MULTI-NATIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and success of the Caribbean Multi-National Business Conference, organized by the New York Carib News, which will celebrate its tenth anniversary this year in the U.S. Virgin Islands between November 10 and 13. Thanks to the hard work and dedicated effort of the organizers of this event, a real dialogue between U.S. and Caribbean businesses has emerged that promises to generate plenty of economic benefit for both the U.S. and the island nations of the Caribbean.

Karl and Faye Rodney, the publishers of the New York Carib News have brought together hundreds of elected officials, civic leaders, entrepreneurs, and business executives from the U.S. and the Caribbean to explore the possibilities and opportunities for economic growth and expansion in the Caribbean. This year's conference will be held in St. Thomas and promises to be an extraordinary success.

Personally, I have found the conference extremely influential in building and supporting political and economic relationships between this country and the nations of the Caribbean. I have also had the honor of participating in these successful conferences and know that they are extremely enlightening and educational endeavors that nurture a growing and important global sector in the world.

This conference has repeatedly addressed important issues of concern to our mutual economic interests. It has concentrated on the challenges and problems of foreign investment, market access, and private sector support. The attendees at the conference come with bright ideas and innovative solutions to these problems and to addressing our common concerns.

I encourage my colleagues and businesses throughout the country to consider attending this year's conference. I submit for the RECORD a Carib News article providing an assessment of this year's planning and the opportunities available for corporations, government leader, and citizens, written by Tony Best, who always participates and provides wise guidance and counsel.

SET FOR ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

A decade after it was launched to build bridges between Caribbean and the U.S.

businesses the Caribbean Multi-National Business Conference is moving towards an important milestone in its evolution.

It is the 10th anniversary of an innovation in economic and social development partnerships, spurred by links between the large, medium-sized and small businesses in an area that stretches from New York, Washington DC, Miami, Colorado, Chicago, Ohio, Texas, New Jersey, and other parts of the U.S. to such nations and territories as Jamaica, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Grenada, St. Marteen, the Bahamas, and St. Kitts-Nevis.

The annual Caribbean Multi-National conference which brought together about 4,000 Caribbean and U.S. business and Government leaders since 1995 to discuss everything from investment, Hemispheric trade and bilateral economic and social partnerships to U.S.-Caribbean relations and health and education challenges is scheduled to be held at Caribbean regional integration, in the U.S. and the Caribbean, especially the members of CARICOM is being held this year in St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands between November 10-13.

The conference has become a highly successful annual event for those interested in creating profitable business partnerships in the Caribbean and for government representatives whose goal is to improve the quality of people's lives, said Pamela Richards, U.S. Virgin Island's Commissioner of Tourism, who is also Chairman of the Board of the Caribbean Tourism Organization.

We have seen the positive results of these meetings, ever since the 1998 meeting in St. Croix. We are delighted that we are being given another opportunity to serve as hosts.

With issues that range from foreign investment, access to markets, the essential role of the private sector in economic expansion and job creation to the march forward in information communications technology on the table for consideration, this year's meeting in St. Thomas, Dr. Karl Rodney, Publisher of the New York Carib News and the driving force behind the conference's 10-year record of success, said that they expect the sessions in St. Thomas to attract the largest gatherings of participants.

We have already seen an exceptionally high level of interest, he explained. One reason is the appeal of St. Thomas. Another is the track record of providing participants with a unique chance to explore commercial deals and to share ideas about new business ventures in several fields, be it retailing, manufacturing, tourism, and other services and import-export.

The presence of many members of the U.S. Congress, senior Caribbean government ministers and their advisers would once again allow them to have a meaningful exchange of ideas about moving U.S. Caribbean relations forward. U.S. Congressional delegate from the U.S. Virgin Islands, Representative Dr. Donna Christian Christensen, agreed. We in Congress and outside of it, know the value of the conference both in terms of the business ventures that evolve out of the private meetings and the public sessions and the discussions which take place during the Dialogue between elected representatives and other Government officials from the U.S. and the Caribbean, said Congresswoman who has attended almost all the conference. That's why we in the U.S. Virgin Islands consider it an honor to welcome the participants from across the U.S. and the Caribbean.

HONORING PAUL J. WILMES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Paul J. Wilmes of Nodaway County, Missouri. Paul will soon retire from a 28 year career of distinguished service to the rural residents and communities of 22 counties in northwest Missouri. Although we wish that Paul could stay on at USDA, he has certainly given back to his community, his state, and his Nation, and well deserved retirement awaits him, though given Paul's reputation for being an active citizen in his community, I doubt this is the last we will hear from Paul Wilmes.

Paul was born on April 22nd, 1953 to Francis and Clara Wilmes of Nodaway County; a county I have been fortunate enough to represent since 1992 at the state and now federal level. Paul grew up in a devout Catholic farm home, and attended St. Gregory's Catholic elementary school, followed by Maryville High School where he was active with football and wrestling. Upon his graduation from Maryville High School, Paul enrolled in Northwest Missouri State University, where he was a member of the Phi Sigma Epsilon Fraternity. He graduated from Northwest with a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science.

On July 10, 1976 he married Robin Lamb. Today, Paul and Robin have two children, Meredith and Kyle, and they remain active in their local community in Nodaway County. Paul has served as a Trustee for the endowment for St. Gregory's School, Advisor to the Area Vocation Technical School, Committee Advisor for the Parents as Teacher Program, a Bantam League football coach, as well as many other church committees and the Finance Board at St. Gregory Barbarigo.

Paul began his career with USDA on April 18, 1977 working for the Farmers Home Administration. He was promoted to the position of County Supervisor in Nodaway County, and later advanced to the position of District Farm Loan Specialist within the Farmers Home Administration. Paul was selected as the District Director of that agency, and on April 30, 1995, Paul began his tenure supervising 22 rural counties in Northwest Missouri. Over the years, the agency has changed its name and refocused its mission, but Paul has remained constant as the leader and director of what is now known as Area 1 of USDA Rural Development.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Paul J. Wilmes, a remarkable citizen who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service. While rural Missouri will miss his leadership, experience, and knowledge, I will still have the great honor of representing Paul in the United States Congress.

A TRIBUTE TO JOANN LUM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor JoAnn Lum. Ms. Lum, the daughter of Chinese immigrants, recently won the Nation's

highest community health leadership honor for mobilizing sweatshop workers and Lower Manhattan victims of 9/11 to seek improved access to benefits and quality health services as part of a larger effort to gain control of their lives.

Ms. Lum is one of 10 outstanding individuals from across the country chosen to receive this year's Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program award.

While growing up in California, Lum observed the hardships suffered by her father and other relatives as they put in long hours as 'houseboys,' busboys and garment workers. During a stint in the Manhattan Borough President's office in the early 1990s, she volunteered as an English teacher for Chinese immigrants and was inspired by the impact of workers organizing to improve conditions.

Ms. Lum founded the National Mobilization Against SweatShops (NMASS) to harness the power of worker campaigns to create healthier workplaces and communities. She works primarily with Latina, Afro-Caribbean, Polish and African American women and men. In one project, she is targeting injured workers' access to benefits and medical treatment, campaigning to overhaul the Workers' Compensation system. In addition, she is calling for an end to 'forced overtime' and other unfair practices, to prevent injuries among more workers.

A testament to Ms. Lum's work is a statement from a Polish immigrant who suffered chemical injuries as an asbestos worker and received assistance from Ms. Lum's organization: "I joined NMASS after being denied my Workers' Compensation benefits numerous times. I was alone and felt powerless, with no money or health care. JoAnn not only assisted me to get needed medical treatment, but has opened my eyes to how disabled workers like myself can join together to advocate for fair health benefits."

Another NMASS initiative launched by Lum, called "Beyond Ground Zero," is a coalition of public health advocates, doctors, clergy and community groups that came together in response to the health crisis among Lower Manhattan's poor population following 9/11.

The coalition compelled private entities to create disaster health insurance for individuals working in Lower Manhattan whose health and income were damaged by 9/11. And in Partnership with Bellevue Hospital, the coalition started a treatment and documentation program for respiratory problems and post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms experienced by victims who were largely ignored by other relief efforts.

More than 3,000 people attended two Lower Manhattan town hall meetings organized by Ms. Lum. Ultimately, her coalition assisted 10,000 poor families in accessing medical coverage and treatment or disaster relief. Ms. Lum's coalition continues to advocate for public and private support for programs that address the longterm health needs of the working poor in Lower Manhattan.

"JoAnn is gifted with the ability to create a movement where the people who must speak for themselves are the center of the work," said one of Lum's nominators.

The Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program distributes \$1.2 million each year to innovators who have creatively surmounted obstacles to meet the challenges of providing health care and social services to the underserved members of their

communities. Ms. Lum and this year's other winners will be honored at a June event in Washington, D.C. She will receive \$105,000 to apply to her program and a \$15,000 personal award.

Ms. Lum was chosen from nearly 700 people nominated this year. Since 1992, the program has given 133 awards in 45 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. Award winners are nominated by civic leaders, health professionals, government representatives and others inspired by their efforts to provide essential health services to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Lum is motivated by the disparity and inconsistencies that she observes in her community. She believes that a commitment to help those who are regarded as less fortunate is a small price to pay. Her commitment in turn inspires others to continue to strive for a better future. Ms. Lum is more than worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING THE 2005 GRADUATES FROM GLOUCESTER COUNTY COLLEGE AND GLOUCESTER COUNTY INSTITUTE OF TECH- NOLOGY GED PROGRAMS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recent graduates from the Gloucester County College and Gloucester County Institute of Technology GED programs. These students have now completed their high school education and earned their diplomas. I commend them for their dedication and hard work, and hope that their education will not end here. Education is a lifelong goal, one that serves to promote the betterment of the individual, and of society. I ask them to read the newspaper; read a novel; write poetry; study current events; talk to friends and family about the issues of the day. Their graduation today is a starting point from which they can grow and learn, and I wish these students all the best in their future endeavors.

The following are the 2005 graduates from the Gloucester County College and Gloucester County Institute of Technology GED Programs:

Anello, Sharon; Bacho, Maria; Booker, Tara Lynn; Boychuck, Laura; Byerly, Kimberly; Childers, Jayne; Conroy, Joseph; Conroy, Margaret; Cook, Christoffer; Cooper, Kimberly; Davis, Damien; D'Costa, Stuart; Devine, Debra; Dobleman, Erik; Doty, Jason; Dozier, Jarrid; Fink, Trisha; Flynn, Tenaya; Ganley, Heather; Goffney, Robert; Gonzalez, Kara and Hale, Michelle.

Hamill, Leah; Harper, Nicole; Harrison, Doreen; Herron, Kimesha; Hilliard, Shawahn; Houseberg, Joyce; James, Shadde; Johnson, Khanyeen; Justis, Helen E.; Karas, Anthony; Karnuk, Christopher J.; Kenyon, Ashley; Kevenaar, Krystle; Lane, Terri; Laramore, Anthony; Livingston, Jason; Long, Todd; Lowe, Bryan; Luongo, Christina; Luton, Karen; McCaughan, Michael; McCloskey, Jeannie and Merideth, Heather.

Moodhard, Shanna; Morrow, Heather; Nickel, James; Paris, David; Patel, Nick; Pettit, Christopher; Pogue, Jason; Quann, Tuana; Rivera, Marielisa; Roundtree, Ajirde; Scolpino, Rachel; Scott, Brittney; Scott, Dante; Seltzer, Christopher; Serock, Christie; Siewert, Jerry; Snyder, Eric; Stepp,

Ashley; Uebele, Evan; Velazquez, Flor; Verdinelli, Robert; Williams, Renee and Wilson, Meya.

RECOGNIZING JESSE WEST FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jesse West of Weston, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Jesse achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on August 4, 2004.

Jesse has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years that Jesse has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

For his Eagle Scout project, Jesse designed and landscaped a "Welcome to Weston" sign at the edge of the school property.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jesse West for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. JESSE R. BAXTER, JR.

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Mr. and Mrs. Jesse R. Baxter, Jr. J.R. Baxter, Jr., was born in Lebanon, Alabama on December 8, 1887. Clarice Howard was later born in Henagar, Alabama on October 1, 1897. The two married on June 23, 1918. They shared a commitment to faith and a love for music. Along with V.O. Stamps they founded Stamps-Baxter Music & Printing Company, in 1926. As devoted Christians, they committed their lives to furthering the gospel by setting it to music. Stamps-Baxter Music & Printing Company has played a crucial role in the promotion of gospel music worldwide. Mr. and Mrs. Baxter passed away in January 1959 and May 1972, respectively. However, their contributions to the composition, publishing, and distribution of gospel music are greatly appreciated and will benefit many generations to come. The Baxters were loved and respected by many and leave a legacy of service and humility. It is an honor to know that Mr. and Mrs. Baxter were both born and raised in DeKalb County, Alabama, which I have the privilege of representing as part of Alabama's Fourth Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE JAPANESE
AMERICAN CULTURAL AND COM-
MUNITY CENTER

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of Little Tokyo's Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) located in my congressional district. This year, the JACCC is celebrating its 25th anniversary of presenting, propagating, communicating and promoting Japanese American arts and culture.

The JACCC is the realization of a dream of visionary Issei and Nisei (first-generation and second-generation) Japanese American pioneers to create a permanent cultural center for all generations to enjoy. Its beginnings are rooted in the 1971 redevelopment of Little Tokyo, when a citizen's advisory committee made the cultural community center an essential component of a new Little Tokyo.

As one of the leading arts organization in Los Angeles and the nation, the JACCC has successfully introduced Japanese and Japanese American arts and culture to diverse audiences for 25 years.

The JACCC opened its doors in 1980 and was completed in 1983. The five-story Center building houses the George and Sakaye Aratani/Japan America Theatre; the JACCC plaza designed by Isamu Noguchi; the award-winning James Irvine Japanese Garden; the George J. Doizaki Gallery; meeting and conference rooms; and nonprofit community tenant offices.

One of the largest ethnic cultural centers of its kind in the United States, the JACCC has presented throughout the United States over 250 premiers of Japanese art, over 100 premiers of Asian American artists, and more exhibitions of Japanese performing arts than any facility outside Japan. It is the most active facility in the United States for the exhibition of Japanese contemporary design. It is also home to a variety of cultural, educational, and community organizations.

The JACCC also presents annual events celebrating the traditional holidays of New Year's and Children's Day. These celebrations preserve traditions inherited from Japan and define uniquely Japanese American traditions and values to younger generations. To ensure the continuation of the next generation of Japanese American artists and audiences, the JACCC has developed artist-in-residency and artist resource programs, which provide support services such as rehearsal and workshop space.

As part of the JACCC's 25th Anniversary celebration, the Shochiku Grand Kabuki Chikamatsuza troupe will provide four special performances of the Grand Kabuki of Japan. This troupe, based in Osaka, Japan, is led by Living National Treasure Nakamura Ganjiro III and features a cast of 45 actors and musicians. It will be the first full-scale company of the Grand Kabuki to tour the United States in nearly ten years.

I congratulate the JACCC on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, and I commend them for the outstanding work they do to ensure that Angelenos and all Americans benefit from the beautiful Japanese culture and Japanese American history.

RECOGNIZING JARED HILL FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jared Hill of Weston, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Jared achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on February 10, 2005.

Jared has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years that Jared has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

For his Eagle Scout project, Jared organized the placement of park benches, tables, parking, and landscaping at Weston Bend State Park.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jared Hill for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT J.
DEVLIN**

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Robert Devlin upon his retirement from the U.S. Army after more than 24 years of outstanding service to our country.

Colonel Devlin has been assigned to several key military positions throughout his career, which culminated as the Garrison Commander of the Redstone Arsenal located in Huntsville, Alabama. It is in this role that Colonel Devlin helped modernize and strengthen Redstone to better meet the demands and challenges of today's Army.

Colonel Devlin has distinguished himself throughout his military service in many challenging and diverse assignments. Throughout his remarkable career, he has received many medals and awards for his ability to lead by example, encourage excellence from his peers and subordinates, effectively manage the Army's resources, and consistently produce outstanding results. I commend Colonel Devlin for his ability to energize a diverse staff toward a common purpose, setting high goals and inspiring his staff to achieve them.

Mr. Speaker, during Colonel Devlin's tenure in North Alabama, he has been a true partner with our community. His openness, visibility, and willingness to help has done a great deal to bring Redstone and the larger community closer together.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of North Alabama, I congratulate Colonel Devlin for his 24 years of service to our country.

HONORING KATHY SPOOR, DIRECTOR
OF PACIFIC COUNTY PUBLIC
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy Marie Spoor, Director of Pacific County Public Health and Human Services Department, for her service in promoting the health of her community. Ms. Spoor was recently recognized as a 2005 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader. This prestigious award goes to only 10 recipients annually, and includes with it a grant of \$105,000 to continue her work.

Seeing her grandmother struggle with the effects of childhood polio and losing her mother to a smoking-related illness inspired Ms. Spoor to dedicate her life to preventing and treating illness.

This dedication has led her to serve those who need help the most. Rural Pacific County is one of the poorest regions in the State of Washington. Of its 21,000 residents, close to 10,000 have incomes that are below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. More than 2,000 have no health insurance, and many more are underinsured and have no dental insurance or dental care.

The Health Department offers all of the traditional public health services, from disease surveillance to tracking pregnancy outcomes, but under Spoor's leadership it has extended its work to include HIV and STD testing, family planning, low-cost or free pharmaceuticals, a host of youth development programs, and even dental care.

Ms. Spoor relies on her background as a registered nurse, a talent for raising funds when budgets are tight, and no small amount on ingenuity to serve the area's residents.

In one instance, Ms. Spoor called in the National Guard to increase access to dental services for local residents. She then convinced one of the National Guard dentists to relocate by finding low-rent space for his practice in a local hospital.

Mr. Speaker, it is for her dedication and indomitable spirit that Ms. Spoor is so deserving of this national award as a Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader. It is my honor to recognize her today.

**RECOGNIZING ARTHUR H.
SCHNUCK**

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Arthur H. Schnuck of Cooper County, Missouri. Mr. Schnuck will soon celebrate his 97th birthday.

Arthur H. Schnuck was born on June 22, 1908 on the Schnuck Century Farm known as the "Walnut Range Stock Farm" to Henry E. Schnuck and Ida Vieth Schnuck. The Walnut Range Stock Farm is located in Cooper County, just east of Boonville in Saline Township.

Mr. Schnuck's early schooling took place at a one room school house at Highland. He attended Boonville High School, and after graduating in 1928, he went on to the University of Missouri. While at Mizzou, Mr. Schnuck competed on several judging teams. His main interests were grain farming and cattle. In 1952, Mr. Schnuck won a corn growing contest sponsored by a radio station in Kansas City; he won with 152 bushels of corn on a single acre in the senior division.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Arthur H. Schnuck of Cooper County, Missouri. Mr. Schnuck's lifelong dedication to agriculture and his community is remarkable, and his accomplishments are commendable. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Congress. I offer him my warmest regards on this important milestone, and my best wishes for many more birthdays in the future.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER MEN'S BASEBALL TEAM

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater men's baseball team who in a stunning display of athleticism, captured the NCAA Division III national championship. Led by head coach John Vodenlich, the Warhawks capped an extraordinary season by winning their first national championship in school history. UW-Whitewater compiled a 45-7 overall record, the best in school history, and became the first team since 1999 to not lose a single game in the double elimination championship tournament.

UW-Whitewater demonstrated impeccable skill both in the field and at the plate. The pitching duo of Senior Kevin Tomasiewicz and Junior Greg Reinhard led the charge for the Warhawks. Tomasiewicz, who was recently selected by the New York Mets in the 2005 Major League Baseball Draft, garnered MVP honors for the championship series after earning two wins and a save during the Warhawks' four game run. Reinhard, who was also selected in the Draft by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, earned first-term All-American Honors and was named the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and ABCA Division III Pitcher of the Year. At the plate, junior designated hitter Eddie Adamson batted a Ted Williams like .417 and set the single season school records for hits, RBIs, runs scored and doubles. The Warhawks also demonstrated their toughness and determination off the field. Outfielder Eric Baldwin earned the WIAC Max Sparger Scholar Athlete of the Year award in honor of his academic excellence.

Winning the title in Grand Chute, just outside of Appleton, Wisconsin, the Warhawks brought tremendous pride for people from all over the great state of Wisconsin. I would like to sincerely congratulate the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater men's baseball team for their remarkable achievements and wish them the best of luck in their quest to repeat as National Champions.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING DR. BOBBY PATTON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career in the field of education will soon come to an end. Dr. Bobby Patton will be retiring from his position as President of Central Missouri State University on June 30 after six years of service to the University.

Dr. Patton received a BA in Speech, Theatre, and English at Texas Christian University, a Masters in Speech and Drama at the University of Kansas, and a Doctorate in Speech Communication at the University of Kansas.

Dr. Patton has had an exceptional career in education for many years. In 1967, Dr. Patton began his educational career at the University of Kansas as the Associate Chair and Acting Chair of the Department of Speech and Drama. In 1972, Dr. Patton continued his career at the University of Kansas as the Chair of the Department of Speech and Drama. In 1980, Dr. Patton was Chair of the Division of Communication and Theatre at the University of Kansas. After his twenty year career with the University of Kansas, Dr. Patton continued his educational career with California State University as the Dean of the School of Arts and Letters. Following his career at California State University, Dr. Patton served as the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Communication Studies at Wichita State University. In 1999, Dr. Patton continued his educational career as the 13th president of Central Missouri State University.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Patton has served the field of education for over thirty-eight years. As he prepares for the next stage in his life, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing him all the best.

RECOGNIZING COMMERCE BANK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Commerce Bank. In a few days, Commerce Bank will receive the Saint Joseph YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Employer of Excellence.

Commerce Bank has worked to make banking an outstanding career choice for women. Since 1986, the business has continually provided opportunities for Saint Joseph women. High achievement is encouraged by Commerce through educational assistance, career training opportunities, and scheduling flexibility. While maintaining their regular work schedules, several female officers and employees have obtained or are currently working toward college degrees. Currently 61 percent of Commerce Bank's employees are women. From Secretary to Senior Vice President, women are entrusted to fill critical positions.

Commerce has also been widely recognized for its commitment to community volunteerism.

In the 10-year history of the Commerce Commendation Award, Commerce Bank of Saint Joseph has won the award nine times; five of those awards have gone to female employees. Commerce's female employees are engaged in a wide range of community activities including the Partners in Education program, tutoring school children, and even taking part in the Red Cross Hurricane Relief effort.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Commerce Bank, an exceptional employer in Missouri's Sixth Congressional District that has made banking an outstanding career choice for women. Commerce Bank's commitment to excellence is inspiring, and I am honored to represent so many of its fine employees and officers in the United States Congress.

INTRODUCING THE GAS PRICE SPIKE RELIEF ACT OF 2005

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will help ease the effect on consumers and airline passengers if the price of gas spikes dramatically. This bill reduces or refunds federal tax on gasoline and motor fuel when the price of gas spikes dramatically.

My legislation, the Gas Price Spike Relief Act of 2005, temporarily cuts the federal gas tax for consumers by providing a tax refund to retailers if the price of motor or aviation fuel rises 10 percent during the course of a month. When the price of fuel jumps this drastically, the Gas Price Spike Relief Act will reduce the tax on motor and aviation fuel by 4.3 cents/gallon and allow retailers to apply for a refund of this tax, ensuring that this tax relief will not affect any money designated for the repair of highways and roads through the Highway Trust Fund. Providing this relief will spur the reduction of gasoline prices at the pump as well as the price of airline tickets.

This legislation address a growing need to provide relief to average Americans from wildly fluctuating gas prices. For example, from March to April of 2005, the cost to fill up a tank of gas rose by more than 10 percent. That's more than twice the increase for the same period last year! We need to be helping working families out—not abandoning them like Republicans have—when no logical explanation exists for ridiculous gas price spikes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Gas prices have gotten out of control. This legislation will provide some needed relief while maintaining the gas price stability our Nation needs. I look forward to working with my colleagues and moving this legislation forward.

HONORING OSCAR BROWN, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the artistic and political icons of our

time and a longtime personal friend, Oscar Brown, Jr. Throughout his life, Oscar defied convention not only by blurring the lines between art and activism, but by consistently and passionately articulating a message of hope, freedom and equality for all people. Oscar passed away on May 29, 2005, in his hometown of Chicago, Illinois.

A performer from an early age, Oscar was known for acting his songs as much as for singing them. Through the popularity of songs like "Brown Baby" and "Signifyin' Monkey," he became known for his use of art as a way to celebrate African-American culture and to denounce racism.

I met Oscar during the early 1970s in Oakland, California. I was amazed at his profound sense of history, his insight and clarity on the root causes of racism and economic exploitation, and his "bold defiance" of all that was corrupt. He often spoke of his deep love for and dedication to his family. A man of tremendous strength, dignity and sensitivity, Oscar Brown, Jr. was a man for all seasons.

Oscar wrote a number of plays that addressed the issues of cultural politics and social division, and made those expressions even more powerful through his regular inclusion of Chicago youth in their casts. One of his best known plays was "The Great Nitty Gritty," which focused on gang problems in Chicago and featured a number of local teenagers onstage and in the production process.

Oscar remained a cultural force in Chicago throughout his life, and is credited with inspiring or influencing countless artistic careers. His bright spirit touched and improved the lives not only of those he knew and mentored, but of the countless others who found hope, purpose and pride through his work.

I was in Los Angeles on December 4, 2004, and learned that Oscar was performing locally. My spirit led me to go see him perform, not knowing that this would be the last time I would see and hear this great genius. After a magnificent performance, I went backstage and we talked and reminisced, and in his unique way, he gave me his candid critique of the United States government and the critical issues facing us. He was excited when I invited him to be my guest at the upcoming Congressional Black Caucus dinner in September, and again talked about his love for his family.

On June 24, 2005, Oscar's family and friends will gather to celebrate his extraordinary life. Oscar was a visionary thinker, a cultural legend, and political guru. My life, like the lives of many, has been enriched by my friend: the great, the magnificent, Oscar Brown, Jr. He will be deeply missed.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KAREN C. BROOKE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the only good thing to come out of Congressman Max Sandlin's defeat in the November election was that it brought his long-time staffer Karen Brooke to the Intelligence Committee as Minority Executive Assistant—where her good humor, good will and remarkable institutional knowledge were instant assets.

Much to our dismay, Karen has decided to retire after 30 years of loyal and dedicated service to the U.S. government, the House, and most recently, to the Committee.

Except for a year at the State Department, Karen's entire career has been spent in the Legislative Branch working for four different Members from four different parts of the country until joining the Committee staff. She is a pleasure to be around, and everyone has benefitted from her professionalism, efficiency, her meticulous approach to every task, and her ability to make it all look so easy.

Through it all, Karen Brooke has somehow found the time to dote on her wonderful husband John, and together they have raised two great children—daughter Adrienne and son Anthony. On behalf of the Members and staff of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I extend our congratulations and wish her and her family the very best as they begin this new, exciting chapter of life.

RECOGNIZING JEANNE DAFFRON, PH.D.

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeanne Daffron Ph.D. Dr. Daffron is Assistant Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at Missouri Western State College in Saint Joseph, Missouri and in a few days will receive the Saint Joseph YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Women in the Workplace.

Dr. Daffron received her undergraduate degree and doctorate in nursing from Texas Woman's University. For nineteen years she served as a faculty member in the nursing department at Missouri Western, and later served as chair of the department and Dean of Professional Studies for seven years. Recently, Dr. Daffron was appointed Assistant Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. She is a member of the International Honor Society of Nursing, as well as the Missouri Nurse Association. In 1999, she was recognized by her alma mater as one of its "Distinguished Alumna." In 2004, Dr. Daffron was selected by students as the "Outstanding Honors Program Faculty Member."

In addition to her career at Missouri Western, Dr. Daffron has served in a number of leadership positions throughout the greater Saint Joseph community. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Heartland Regional Medical Center Foundation, Leadership Northwest Missouri, and Junior Achievement, and served as only the second female chair of the Saint Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Daffron is also Co-Chair of the Higher Education Division for the United Way, and is a member of the Saint Joseph Community Plan Board. She was appointed by Governor Blunt to a three-year term on the State of Missouri Life Science Research Board as well.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jeanne Daffron, Ph.D. Her commitment to Saint Joseph exemplifies the qualities of service and dedication. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF FLICK SEED COMPANY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the Flick Seed Company, Kingsville, MO, has received an Honorable Mention award from Region Seven of the Environmental Protection Agency. This is the second time in as many years that Flick Seed has been recognized for its environmental awareness.

Since Steve Flick founded Flick Seed more than twenty years ago, he and his company have worked with state, municipal, and federal agencies, as well as private businesses to restore the original ecosystems that once covered Missouri and the rest of the Midwest. Steve is a graduate of the University of Missouri at Columbia and has put his agriculture degree to good use with the founding of Flick Seed Incorporated.

Flick Seed has worked tirelessly to keep seed waste out of the landfills. They have done this by combining seed waste with office paper waste and creating pellets that are used in pellet burning stoves. This work has not only kept our landfills from becoming full of seed waste, but it has provided a unique and innovative form of renewable energy.

I know that my fellow House members will join me in congratulating Flick Seed Company for its recognition by the Environmental Protection Agency.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY SCHNEIDER

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend one of my constituents, Judy Schneider, on receiving the Women in Government Relations 2004 Distinguished Member Award.

Ms. Schneider is a specialist on Congress at the Congressional Research Service (CRS), a department of the Library of Congress, and an adjunct scholar at The Brookings Institution. She worked previously for Senate and House committees, including the Senate Select Committee to Study the Senate Committee System. Ms. Schneider is a frequent speaker and lecturer on Congress and legislative procedures. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree from The American University. Ms. Schneider is also co-author of the Congressional Deskbook, a comprehensive resource tool frequently used by Congress and Lobbyists.

Ms. Schneider is well known on Capitol Hill by Members of Congress, staff, lobbyists and others as "The person" for information on numerous topics including House, Senate and Committee Procedure.

Ms. Schneider has been a long time friend of WGR. Valuing Ms. Schneider's dedication and support for the organization, she was granted Emeritus Member status in 2004. Emeritus Membership status is reserved for

women who have displayed an exceptional commitment to helping other women succeed in the field of government relations, and who have also achieved notable personal success in that endeavor. Previously, only Members of Congress have been awarded this honor.

Judy is a dedicated public servant who is committed to making a difference in the lives of others. I am proud to represent her in the U.S. Congress and to have the benefit of her wisdom, insights and experience.

I commend Judy Schneider on her accomplishments and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING BAR MITZVAH OF CHARLIE DANN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Bar Mitzvah of Charlie Dann, on June 4, 2005. Here is Charlie's speech entitled "Memory is Powerful."

There were many, especially some of my former Hebrew teachers, who would have doubted my commitment to Judaic and Hebrew studies.

At times, to be honest, I've doubted myself.

But I stand here today honored to join in a tradition that has meant something to so many in our world, our community and our family. And means so much to me. I am still not sure of exactly who I am in a large context, but I continue working on that with the help of so many.

Thank you Rabbi Schonberger. And thank you Mrs. Kessler. And thank you Mr. Zevor and thank you Mr. Zaltsman and yes, thank you Mr. Grabiner and thank you Mrs. Schonberger. More thank you's later.

Now I want to talk about why I decided to go ahead with a Bar Mitzvah.

For those of you who know my parents, you probably realize that they did not force me to go through with this Bar Mitzvah. It was my choice.

I chose to do this for many reasons. But many of them center around five men and five women. Four of the men aren't here in a physical sense. And two of the women aren't here either. So, now before I explain more, I'd like to ask my grandfather Bentley Lenhoff to stand. Next, I'd like my great-grandmother, Eva Dann to stand. Now my grandmothers, Hope Ellis, Michelle Dann, and Nancy Lenhoff and even though she denies it, I'd also like Barbie Hodros to stand as she too has been a grandmother to me. Thank you for everything that you've taught me and thank you for loving me and believing in me.

Now I will explain more.

The men that can't be here today—those that I knew and one that I never met—have given me an incredible legacy. Phil Arian, Stuart Dann, Julie Dann, Dean Cribbs and the men after whom I'm named, Charlie Lenhoff and Phil Oxman, valued tradition and doing the right things in life. None of them led a conventional life. But their lives have taught me the importance of being connected to a larger community and of making contributions to the family.

And my great-grandmothers—Jessie Gorsline and Bess Lawrence Oxman—were real pioneers in life. From you, I have been given drive and determination. I sometimes wish I had more of your scholarly dedi-

cation. But perhaps that will come in time. Like my grandfathers and great-grandfathers, you also valued community and being connected to larger goals that extended beyond your own universes.

I stand up here today to pay tribute to my family, of course. And to Rabbi Schonberger who suffered through my occasional—OK frequent—obstinence and poor study habits. And I would be remiss not to thank my mom and dad, Alyssa Lenhoff and Marc Dann. And my aunts and uncles, Frank and Maddy Joseph, Ken and Marilyn Steinback, Kathy and Robert Leb, Scott and Priscilla Dann, Dan and Nan Arian, Mark and Ellen Arian and Lyndean and Myron Brick and my wonderful cousins—all of you—the little ones and the big ones—Big Emily, Meg, Robin, Amanda, Sylvie, Benji, Molly, Harte, little Emily, Mickey, Jillian, Jordan, and Jackson.

And there are two others who I must mention—my sisters. Mavilya, Mia—who is studying somewhere in Italy or at least that's what she told her mom. Dr. Gulnara Tarpe who is a lot like a second mom to me as well. And of course my younger sister, Jessie—Pishur to me. I love you.

But I also stand up here to talk about my thoughts about our community—the Mahoning Valley.

I'm a politician's son. You didn't expect me to be brief, did you?

I believe our community is at a crossroads and I further believe that we—as individuals—have the power to determine its future.

As a graduate of Akiva Academy, it is painful for me to see the school suffer enrollment declines year after year after year. It is even more painful to drive to downtown Youngstown or over to Girard and see the remnants of what once was. It makes me sad to think of how we—as a community—have allowed our economy and our population to decline.

Of course I realize that the steel mills can't come back. And I realize that there is no magic bullet for the economic development problems that plague our community.

But I truly believe that some of our problems could be cured with a little bit of the ideas that are presented in today's Torah portion.

Today's Torah portion talks about a census—counting people.

Counting people involves more than just lining them up and ticking off numbers.

Surveying the population of a town, a community, a state or a nation is something that is critically important as the Torah portion explains. But when you count them, it is important to realize the value inherent in every human being. We are more than numbers. I think this message is extremely important to us as a community and can help us better address the problems that we face.

For too long, we have been intimidated by the declining census. We have allowed ourselves to believe that we are on a slippery slope down because our population has fallen.

If we do what the Torah portion seems to advise and count people as more than just numbers, our census will swell to incredible proportions. We will see that among us are people of immense talent and incredible energy and great values. We will see that our census is among the best in the Nation.

I am ready to join the community and to help so many of you who have been working so diligently to preserve what's left and to try to recapture what once was. I will join as a person of a lot of energy, a lot of creativity and a great deal of dedication to the values and morals that we as Jews have inherited from the prophets. I believe in honesty. I believe in hard work. I believe in compassion. I believe in solving and not creating prob-

lems. I am sure of all of this. But other questions still linger for me. What will I be? A politician? Perhaps. A football player? Doubtful. A journalist? Maybe. What I do know for certain is that—guided by my faith as a Jew—I will be a good person. I will be a person who knows right from wrong and who practices it. And, I will be a person who thinks and who cares and who draws on faith, memory and tradition in daily life.

We can't forget who we are. We can't forget what we were. We can't lose sight of what we could be.

Memory is powerful.

And they say, past can be prologue. It is up to us to decide which past we choose.

A TRIBUTE TO YOLANDE I. NICHOLSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the accomplishments of Yolande I. Nicholson.

Ms. Nicholson obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Journalism at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Then she earned a Juris Doctor from Columbia University School of Law, where she was actively involved in the Columbia Journal of Transnational Law. As a student, she received the Harry S. Truman Congressional scholarship, George B. Dealy Journalism Award, and a Distinction in Political Theory for academic excellence. In 1994, she received the Mayoral Special Achievement Award for commitment to economic development projects involving small businesses and entrepreneurial activities in New York City.

Ms. Nicholson began her admirable career as a legal assistant at Bozeman & Trott, P.C. in Mount Vernon, New York, and subsequently held executive roles in several prominent financial institutions, including Vice President and Transaction Execution Manager at J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and Vice President and Assistant General Counsel at Chase Manhattan Bank. She now holds the position of Executive Vice President and General Counsel at the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation in Brooklyn, where she has served since June 2004.

Ms. Nicholson has continually shared her talents and experience to help others. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I proudly recognize Ms. Yolande I. Nicholson, an asset to the community.

IN SUPPORT OF MAIN STREET AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESSES

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of robust funding for two important Small Business Administration programs: the 7(a) Lending Program and the Microloan program.

Small business owners take huge risks to try to realize their dreams of owning their own business which fuel U.S. economic growth. If

we want a strong economy and a business environment that encourages this entrepreneurial spirit, the federal government needs to give small business the economic tools to be successful. That tool is the 7(a) program that was created to provide capital to small business owners unable to access traditional financing. Through this program, more capital has been made available for small business investment that has helped grow the economy. Companies who participate in the 7(a) program account for approximately 75 percent of the net new jobs added to the economy! Funding the 7(a) program at \$79 million is an investment in Main Street, USA.

The Microloan Program is another excellent SBA program that creates jobs on Main Street. This program provides loans to low- and moderate-income entrepreneurs that are not served by private sector banks or the 7(a) loan program. One example of the benefits of the SBA Microloan program is the California Coastal Rural Development Corporation (Cal Coastal) in my district, which has made microloans totaling \$2,775,000 since 1998. With the loan and technical assistance financing provided by the SBA Microloan Program, Cal Coastal has financed more than 153 businesses with an average loan of \$18,000. Cal Coastal is just one example of the excellent work being done by non-profit intermediaries throughout our state and across the country. Fully funding the SBA Microloan program is a smart business investment for Main Street.

DR-CAFTA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 15, 2005, I issued the following statement during a press conference on how the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) will be harmful to minorities and would like to submit it for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Today I am here to join my colleagues to reject the current text of DR-CAFTA and insist on the renegotiation of DR-CAFTA. Many sectors of society in some form or another will be negatively impacted by DR-CAFTA, but today I'd like to highlight how DR-CAFTA will be harmful to unions, and especially minority unionists. We have seen the detrimental effects of the NAFTA-model on unions. After NAFTA's signing, the rate of union-busting factory owners following through on threats to close plants tripled. Union busting will only increase with DR-CAFTA, which will affect all unionists, but particularly minorities, who are more likely to be in unions than the population at large. Minority communities have lower median wages and higher unemployment rates, and the benefits of union membership are greater than for non-minority workers. Unionized African-American, Asian-American and Latino workers all make substantially higher wages than their non-union counterparts. Furthermore, the difference in wages between union and non-union workers is much greater for minorities than for average union workers. For example, while average union workers make 28 percent more than their non-union counterparts, unionized Latino workers, for example, make 59 percent more than their nonunion counterparts.

Unions have played a significant role in making America a more just and equitable place for all. They helped to establish the middle class, making the "American dream" a reality for many workers and their families. Before the successes of the civil rights movement were marked by law, unions helped to provide freedom from discrimination in the workplace for minority workers and to integrate minority populations into the greater population. Sadly, trade agreements following the NAFTA model will weaken unions, and the benefits of unions guaranteed to minority workers.

When DR-CAFTA comes before Congress for a vote, I will urge my colleagues to oppose this unfair agreement, and send it back for renegotiation. Trade between nations does not and should not have to lead to such negative consequences.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY STUDENTS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a tremendous honor to salute our soldiers of tomorrow—the service academy bound students of the Third District of the Texas. This district of Texas is home to some of the best and the brightest young people.

I'm truly confident that they are ready to join the premier military force of the world. It is a privilege to send such fine young people on to our Nation's prestigious service academies.

We lift them and their families up in prayer for their future service and sacrifices. I am so very proud of them.

God bless them and God bless America. I salute them.

The appointees and their hometowns follow.

THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS

United States Military Academy—Morgan Peterson—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School; Jessica Shurtz—Parker, Texas—Plano East Senior High School; Chris Villarreal—Allen, Texas—Allen High School.

United States Naval Academy—Douglas McDonald—Plano, Texas—Plano East Senior High School; Andrew Treat—Dallas, Texas—Trinity Christian Academy.

United States Air Force Academy—Mitchell Himes—Lucas, Texas—Allen High School; Benaiah Lozano—Garland, Texas—Garland High School; John Schrader—Murphy, Texas—Plano East Senior High School; Mitchell Woods—Lucas, Texas—Allen High School.

United States Merchant Marine Academy—Donald Finnie—Wylie, Texas—Wylie High School.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES T. CONOLLY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Brooklynite and distinguished public servant, James T. Conolly. It is an honor to represent Mr. Conolly in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such an outstanding leader.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Conolly obtained his bachelor's degree at the City University of New York. He subsequently pursued a career in public service, where he dedicated several years to assisting and leading others.

Mr. Conolly has demonstrated exemplary leadership and devotion to the community as the Executive Director of Alternative Sentencing in the Office of the Brooklyn District Attorney and Director of the Work Experience Program for the New York City Human Resources Administration under Mayor Giuliani. In conjunction with the late honorable Shirley Chisholm, he co-founded the Mid-Brooklyn Civic Association. In addition, Mr. Conolly was the first black man to be elected as District leader in the 42nd Assembly District, which included the Flatbush area of Brooklyn. He is continuing his ongoing commitment to the Brooklyn community through his activity as Deputy Commissioner for the New York City Human Resources Administration.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent upon this body to recognize the achievements and selfless service of Mr. Conolly as he continues to offer his talents and philanthropic services for the betterment of the community.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. James T. Conolly has continuously demonstrated his altruistic dedication to the community that makes him more than worthy of our recognition today.

IN HONOR OF MR. VICTOR GHIO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. FARR. I rise today to honor the life of Victor Ghio, an influential member of the Santa Cruz community. He passed away on March 31, 2005 at age 88 and is survived by his brother, Johnnie M. Ghio; his sisters, Victoria Gemignani, Mary Marsalis, and Gloria Della Mora; and numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. Mr. Ghio is most notable as a local legend and a vital link to the city's storied Italian fishing colony.

Mr. Ghio was born on August 20, 1916 in Santa Cruz, California. Following the footsteps of his grandfather and father, Mr. Ghio learned to fish around the age of 8. Shortly after graduating from high school, he went into the family business. However, when World War II broke out, he enlisted, and spent a decade in the service. Mr. Ghio earned the prestigious award of a Purple Heart for his assistance in the war effort.

Mr. Ghio spent more than 60 seasons fishing the Monterey Bay area on his 30-foot boat, Catherina G., named after his beloved mother. Just shortly before his death, Mr. Ghio was still buying fishing equipment to get ready for the season's commercial salmon season. The ocean was evidently his world in which he could live as a free spirit, away from the bustle of the city.

Mr. Speaker, I am joined by Mr. Ghio's family and friends in honoring his life and contributions to the community. He will be remembered by his positive spirit and a wonderful outlook on life. Mr. Ghio's service will be truly missed.

VENEZUEAN RESOLUTION REGARDING TERRORIST LUIS POSADA CARRILES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. On Wednesday, June 15, 2005, Representative DENNIS KUCINICH met with legislators from Venezuela who presented him with a resolution that passed in the Venezuelan legislative assembly regarding the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles.

The following is a translation of that resolution.

Non Official Translation

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA—RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DECISION OF THE SUPREME TRIBUNAL OF JUSTICE REQUESTING THE EXTRADITION OF LUIS POSADA CARRILES

CONSIDERING

That on October 6, 1976, a Cubana de Aviacion airplane was victim of an abominable terrorist act over the island of Barbados, exploding in mid-air and resulting in the death of its passengers and crew;

CONSIDERING

That among the victims were 57 Cuban nationals, 24 of which were members of the Cuban National Fencing Team who had recently emerged victorious in the Fencing Championships of Central America and the Caribbean, held in Caracas, Venezuela; alongside 11 Guyanese students and 5 Korean students;

CONSIDERING

That material responsibility for the condemnable terrorist act was linked to Venezuelan nationals Heman Ricardo and Freddy Lugo, and that a consequent investigation determined that the sinister plan was hatched in Caracas, under the direction of Orlando Bosch and Luis Posada Carriles, a Cuban-Venezuelan, who from 1967 served in an official capacity in various police forces, including as the Chief of the Explosives Brigade of the Division of Intelligence and Prevention Services (DISIP), known by the alias "Commissar Basilio;"

CONSIDERING

That the commission of this crime affected traditional relations between the countries linked to the events, and could have resulted in international political conflicts;

CONSIDERING

That joint actions by state authorities in Cuba and Venezuela allowed judicial officials to prosecute and sanction those responsible for such actions;

CONSIDERING

That the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles avoided being brought to justice on numerous occasions and often with the use of violence, escaping from various Venezuelan prisons, most notably his escape from the San Juan de los Morros Prison on August 18, 1985;

CONSIDERING

That having detected that the terrorist fugitive Luis Posada Carriles had been detained in the Republic of Panama, accused and convicted of planning a new terrorist attack against the President of the Republic of Cuba, Fidel Castro, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela requested his extradition pursuant to a decision of the

Chamber of Penal Cassation of the Supreme Tribunal of Justice;

CONSIDERING

That said request was denied by the Government of Panama under the presidency of Mireya Moscoso, who reprieved Luis Posada Carriles, effectively ignoring the Extradition Treaty between the two countries and provoking international condemnation;

CONSIDERING

That terrorist attacks constitute crimes against humanity that can cause social commotion and must be punished by the competent authorities in any country in the world;

CONSIDERING

That the families of the victims and their respective countrymen await that justice be done for these abhorrent terrorist acts.

AGREES

First: To express support for the decision of the Supreme Tribunal of Justice which, in a sovereign, autonomous, and independent decision, dictated the issuance of an extradition request for the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles to the Government of the United States of America.

Second: To ratify the National Assembly's repudiation and condemnation of this abominable terrorist act, just as the repudiation and condemnation of similar acts that occur anywhere else in the world.

Third: To ratify the National Assembly's repudiation of the conduct of the Republic of Panama's former president, Mireya Moscoso, who in reprieving the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles violated the terms of the Extradition Treaty in force between Panama and Venezuela.

Fourth: To request that the Government of the United States of America provide information as to whether Luis Posada Carriles is within its territory, and if so, to provide for his immediate extradition.

Fifth: To encourage the Organization of American States, the United Nations, and the international community coordinate efforts to capture and extradite one of the most dangerous terrorists in the history of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Sixth: To request that the Congress of the United States of America ratify their absolute rejection of terrorism and their conviction to fight it.

Seventh: To deliver copies of this legislation to the diplomatic representatives in Venezuela of Cuba, Guyana, Barbados, South Korea, Panama, and the United States of America.

Eighth: To publicize said legislation.

Ratified and signed in the Federal Legislative Palace, headquarters of the National Assembly, in Caracas, Venezuela, on the fifth day of May of the year 2005, year 195 of Venezuelan independence and year 146 of the federation.

NICOLÁS MADURO MOROS,
President.
RICARDO GUTIÉRREZ,
First Vice-President.
PEDRO CARREÑO,
Second Vice-President.
IVÁN ZERPA GUERRERO,
Secretary.
JOSÉ GREGORIO VIANA,
Assistant Secretary

CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY ON ITS 180TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year the American Tract Society is celebrating the 180th Anniversary of its founding in 1825. There is no doubt that the American Tract Society has played a pivotal role in advancing Christian family values in this country. Not only does American Tract Society have a widespread and profound impact on the current moral climate of the United States, but its tracts deliver a message of hope worldwide.

The American Tract Society was founded to address the need for solid Biblical teaching and evangelism in the wide-open, ever-expanding Western frontier of our country. Too often, frontier families found themselves without any access to a church and without vital Christian fellowship. The Society was born out of this profound need and quickly became the largest publishing house in the United States, publishing around 8 million pieces in 1860.

The American Tract Society has continued to grow and evolve based on the changing world around it. While the society holds steadfastly to the timeless and unchanging quality of Christ's Gospel message, they recognize the need to remain relevant in their medium to maximize the impact.

And so in this Anniversary year, I congratulate the American Tract Society and challenge them to continue spreading God's message of salvation to a world that desperately needs it.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. SIMPSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Brooklynite and distinguished lawyer, Charles E. Simpson. It is an honor to represent Mr. Simpson in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such an outstanding leader.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Simpson received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1974, graduating magna cum laude from Pepperdine University and named a Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellow. He subsequently obtained his Juris Doctor from Harvard University in 1978. Before completing his undergraduate studies, Mr. Simpson dedicated three years of service to the United States Air Force. As a lawyer, Mr. Simpson often represents debtors and creditors in Chapter 11 Reorganization cases. He is currently a partner of Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP, and chairs the firm's Bankruptcy, Creditors' Rights and Workouts Practice Group, and is a member of the Corporate and Securities, Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Real Estate Practice Groups.

Mr. Simpson has served as counsel to me since 1981. He also acted as outside counsel to the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation from 1983 through 1996. Mr. Simpson engaged in several philanthropic activities

and demonstrated true dedication by serving on the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Children's Museum, the Brooklyn Red Cross, and the Queens Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, as well as acting as Brooklyn's representative on the Board of Directors of the New York City Public Development Corporation. He was also active as a member of the Brooklyn Area Council of Boy Scouts of America and the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Minorities in the Profession.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments and selfless service of Mr. Simpson as he continues to offer his talents and philanthropic services for the betterment of the community.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Charles E. Simpson has continuously demonstrated his altruistic dedication to the community that makes him more than worthy of our recognition today.

IN MEMORY OF MR. FRANK
LICHTANSKI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great public servant for Monterey County, California. Frank J. Lichtanski passed away on June 9, 2005 in his home in Del Rey Oaks, California after a battle with cancer.

Frank was passionate about all modes of transportation, and particularly buses, for more than 31 years. At age 23, he worked as a bus driver for Monterey-Salinas Transit, beginning what would become an illustrious career. After six years, Frank became general manager, and in 1982 he became Monterey-Salinas Transit's Chief Executive Officer. In his 31 years of service with MST, Frank turned a fledgling bus service with only nine buses and twenty employees into a thriving public transit system. Today, Monterey-Salinas Transit provides public transit service in Monterey, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties and carries 4.8 million passengers each year. Each time Frank came to Washington, D.C., he marveled at the Metro system and how Union Station had developed as a commercial center with transportation as the anchor for restaurants and entertainment. He took that inspiration and figured out how a public transit station could benefit Monterey County. The City of Marina is the northern gateway to the Monterey Peninsula. Frank's vision grew to become the Marina Transit Station, situated at the west end of a major corridor between the coastal communities and the inland communities of Monterey County. The Marina Transit Station is a multimodal connection serving transit and over-the-road buses, as well as automobile passengers, taxis, and bicyclists. It will serve as the anchor for economic development in a part of the county that had lost its commercial businesses when the former Fort Ord military base closed.

He was a regional leader in implementing Intelligent Transportation Systems that include visual tracking of buses through enhanced communication systems, automated voice announcements to ensure compliance with ADA,

and visual displays at transit centers to provide passengers with real time bus arrivals and departures. Frank understood that technology improvements alone would not improve ridership and championed the purchase of new fuel efficient buses. Always a creative problem solver, Frank fought for and won FTA approval to leverage the purchase of three buses into a financing package of 46 new buses to respond to 10 percent annual growth in ridership.

Frank amassed a collection of train and bus schedules dating back to the early 1900s, and I am talking to officials at the Smithsonian Institution about the possibility of a display of Frank's memorabilia. Being passionate about all modes of transportation, Frank personally traveled to 34 countries and inspected more than 180 transit systems, always searching for ideas to improve public transit on the Central Coast.

The residents of Del Ray Oaks, Monterey County and the Central Coast mourn the passing of Frank Lichtanski and join me in expressing our heartfelt condolences to Frank's wife, Pam; his daughter, Aaron; and sisters Jeannie Stopa and Fran Stauff, and to the MST family to whom Frank devoted his stellar career.

HONORING SIR FERNANDO MUY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues in the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus to honor the contributions and achievements of Sir Fernando Muy on his recent passing. Sir Muy was an entrepreneur, friend, community volunteer, husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Sir Muy made an impact to each person he came in contact with and left them with compassion, patience, and generosity.

I had the honor of meeting Sir Muy at a community gathering at the On Leong Chinese Community Center last July. I learned that he was a kind and caring man who took interest in helping others. He was a man who pushed for the rights of Chinese both in the U.S. and internationally.

The title "Sir" was bestowed upon Fernando Muy by the 25th Knight of the Imperial Byzantine Order of the Star of Asia, by H.I.R.H. Prince Henri Constantine III the current leader of Byzantine Dynasty of the Eastern Roman Empire. His title was placed upon him for his outstanding accomplishments in making great contributions to the public charity, culture, and his promotion of world peace. Other such winners of this award include President Harry Truman and John Glenn.

Since he had been oppressed by two Communist regimes in China and in Cuba, Sir Muy was a staunch opponent of Communism. With a sound financial foundation behind him, the retired entrepreneur decided to become active in the community. Sir Muy's contributions and tireless advocacy work helped make it possible for Chinese immigrants to have the rights they have today. He advocated and encouraged all immigrants to become citizens, to register to vote so as to exercise their duty and power as citizens.

Sir Muy worked tirelessly to reduce the tension between China and Taiwan by traveling to both countries to encourage on-going dialogue between the two sides. In Miami, his place of residence, he continued his personal commitment to the community by establishing the following organizations in Miami: Chinese Welfare Council in 1978, World Kwong Tung Community Association in 1991, Florida Chinese Federation in 1993 and Overseas Chinese Association in 2000. He also helped with the creation of the following: Chinese American Benevolent Association in 1956, Organization of Chinese Americans—South Florida Chapter in 1987, and United Chinese Association of Florida in 2003.

Sir Muy accepted the position of the National President of Overseas Chinese Association in 2000. He wanted to revitalize an inactive ten-year-old organization with only one chapter in the country of Macao. In order to make an international impact, he decided to stay in Taiwan. The mission of OCA is to unite all overseas Chinese worldwide, to promote harmony by using Founding Father Dr. Sun Yat-San's "Three People's Principles"; preserve the Chinese heritage, and encourage members to actively participate in local civil affairs for equality, and advancement of Chinese.

Sir Fernando Muy will be remembered as a great philanthropist, a successful entrepreneur, a caring father and grandfather. Most of all, he will be remembered for his philanthropy and chivalry's spirit of justice, his commitment to advocate for the welfare and advancement of Chinese worldwide, and the promotion of the Chinese culture.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL DONALD G.
COOK

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to honor General Donald Cook, United States Air Force, for his 36 years of dedicated service.

During the past 36 years, General Cook has served in the Air Force with honor and distinction. He's a command pilot with over 3,300 hours. The general has commanded a flying training wing, two space wings, and the 20th Air Force—a real tribute to his leadership capabilities.

General Cook has been the commander of Air Education and Training Command since December 9th, 2001. This command includes the Air Force Recruiting Service, two numbered air forces, Air University and consists of 15 wings, more than 66,000 active-duty members and 15,000 civilians. As commander of the Air Force University, General Cook was responsible for recruiting, training and educating Airmen to sustain the combat capability of the Air Force.

On a personal note, I have known General Cook and his wife Diane for a number of years. They and their family members are outstanding Americans who have dedicated a great deal of time and energy to public service. General Cook worked in my office for a year, working with me to formulate legislation on professional military education. Through

the years, I have seen Don grow into a superb military leader.

I know the members of the House will join me in Honoring General Cook and in wishing his family and him all the best in the years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. TERRY E.
GRANT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished member of the healthcare profession and Brooklynite, Dr. Terry E. Grant.

Dr. Grant is the Chief Executive Officer of Gentle Dental, which offers cosmetic and general dentistry, and which serves nursing homes and assisted living facilities. He has also been active as a Chief Division of Geriatric Dentistry at several universities and medical centers. Through dentistry he has conducted various efforts to improve the health of his community.

Dr. Grant's efforts include establishing base line data to track children and families in need of dental services, providing free dental service in his private office to children and families of the working poor and uninsured. He has also developed strategies to improve the overall healthcare of children in his community, including contacting the national dentifrice companies and soliciting their support. Most notably, he has spearheaded a community-based preventive children's dentistry program. The program provides free toothbrushes, fluoride toothpaste, and preventive dentistry lectures to children in conjunction with the Nassau County Dental Society for Children Dental Health month.

Mr. Speaker, it behooves us to pay tribute to the achievements and service of Dr. Grant. May our country continue to benefit from the selfless endeavors of individuals, such as Dr. Terry E. Grant.

CELEBRATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF LANDMARK U.S. SUPREME
COURT DECISION IN GRISWOLD
V. CONNECTICUT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Griswold v. Connecticut*. This decision served as the foundation for improvements in women's reproductive health, felt even to this day.

It is difficult to believe that just 40 years ago, it was actually illegal for American women to use birth control. But as late as 1965, 30 states still had laws prohibiting or restricting the sale and use of contraception.

The case of *Griswold v. Connecticut* involved Estelle Griswold, the Executive Director of the Planned Parenthood League of Connecticut, and the League's Medical Director, Dr. C. Lee Buxton. Ms. Griswold and Dr.

Buxton were arrested and convicted under Connecticut's 1879 law forbidding the use of contraception or assisting anyone seeking contraception. They challenged this law—ultimately fighting their case all the way to our Nation's highest court. And, on June 7th 1965, the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated the Connecticut law, opening the door for nationwide counseling and use of contraception.

Griswold v. Connecticut paved the way for future decisions regarding a women's right to reproductive health and privacy—including the 1972 U.S. Supreme Court decision that extended the right to access contraception to unmarried women.

Why was *Griswold v. Connecticut* so important? Well, consider the fact that in 1965, 45 percent of births to married women were unintentional. But, today, only 14 percent of births to married women occur sooner than planned. In 1965, only 38 percent of women used some form of birth control. Today, nearly 70 percent of women do.

With good cause, a recent poll shows that 80 percent of Americans strongly support women having access to contraception. With newfound ability to control how many children to have and when, women have been able to achieve educational and professional goals that before 1965 were extremely difficult. Access to contraception has dramatically changed women's health, giving them dignity and control over their lives and their futures. Control over their own bodies has also contributed to reductions in maternal and infant mortality through better birth spacing and better health status. Because of contraception, couples can decide when they are financially and emotionally ready to start a family. So children are born into families that are ready and able to fully care for them.

Access and use of birth control are essential components of basic preventative health care for women across the U.S. and has successfully helped reduce national rates of unintended pregnancies.

And, who would have predicted in 1965, that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would recognize the significant impact of birth control on American society? But they did. In 1999, the CDC included family planning in their list of the "Ten Great Public Health Achievements in the 20th Century."

However, despite these achievements, access to contraceptives is far from guaranteed. Today, we, as political leaders, stand at a crossroads. We can maintain the status quo, or we can further strive to improve reproductive health and reduce unintended pregnancies in this country. My Prevention First bill would permit women to take greater control over their reproductive health. This legislation would allow greater access to contraception by increasing funding for family planning services to low-income women and requiring insurance companies to cover contraceptives if they cover other prescription drugs.

Today, as we commemorate the momentous *Griswold v. Connecticut* Supreme Court decision that made such a great impact on reducing unintended pregnancies by allowing women to control their reproductive health, I urge my colleagues to support common sense legislation like the Prevention First Act and join me in taking action to further reduce unintended pregnancies.

We have certainly come a long way in just 40 years, but we must remain vigilant to en-

sure that all women have access to the most basic reproductive health care services and that they are empowered to make the best personal decisions about when they are financially and emotionally ready to start a family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on June 13, 2005 I missed rollcall votes Nos. 241 and 242. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on S. 643 and H.R. 2326.

RECOGNIZING JOHN WERKMEISTER
OF MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize John Werkmeister of Meadville, Pennsylvania, as an exceptional history teacher and role model. Mr. Werkmeister has been named one of eight national finalists for the Richard T. Farrell Teacher of Merit Award. This national award is presented every year to an educator who develops and uses innovative and creative teaching methods to enhance students' interest in history. As a teacher at Cambridge Springs High School in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania, he has shown exemplary commitment to making history education engaging and exciting, while involving his students in the National History Day Program.

National History Day is a yearlong program in which students explore historical topics related to an annual theme. Participants qualify for national competition after competing in several local and state competitions. In preparing his students for the program, Mr. Werkmeister's work ethic and research skills provided students with the tools necessary to be successful in competition.

Mr. Speaker, I find it heartening that there are educators in this country who devote so much time and effort to shaping the minds of our young people. It is with great pleasure that I recognize Mr. Werkmeister for his dedication to educating the potential leaders of tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT C.
WILTSHIRE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Albert C. Wiltshire, an esteemed community leader. It is an honor to represent Mr. Wiltshire in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such an outstanding leader.

Mr. Wiltshire obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban Studies from St. Francis' College and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from New York University. He also received a Senior Managers Program certification from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Mr. Wiltshire is currently a Government Relations Manager for the KeySpan Corporation. At KeySpan, he provides counsel to the Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Director of Government Relations on the relevant implications of government policy. Prior to joining KeySpan, he served as a Government Relations Manager for Consolidated Edison. Mr. Wiltshire's administrative experience also includes his previous service as President and Chief Operating Officer at the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation. Through his efforts, the Navy Yard has become the most successful industrial park and economic development project in the nation.

Mr. Wiltshire is certainly a model for the youth in our community. His drive to improve the standard of living and to clear a path for our youth to enter the economic mainstream is evident in all of his endeavors. Mr. Wiltshire has even served as a member of the New York City Police Department, where he became involved in reaching out to young adults at risk. He also restructured the Citywide Model Cities Program and devoted two years to reforming the New York City Juvenile Justice System's approach to youth crime and incarceration.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements and service of Mr. Albert C. Wiltshire.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VARIETY BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens and its honoree, Chuck Viane, on the evening of the organization's 50th anniversary celebration. The Boys and Girls Club is a wonderful nonprofit organization that offers a wide array of services to New York City children. Our community's young people are truly fortunate to have such an effective and necessary resource at their disposal.

The Variety Boys Club of Queens was established five decades ago in response to the growing problem of youth gangs in the borough. The organization opened May 1, 1955 and registered 3,000 members that first day. Boys came from all parts of Queens to watch movies, play games and participate in sports. In 1981, the club's board of directors first extended services to girls and by 1985, all club programs were available to the young women of Queens.

Today, the club provides youths aged 6 to 17 with a wide range of educational and recreational activities. The club makes every effort to ensure that these children do not "fall through the cracks," giving them a place to do their homework, providing learning assistance, promoting exercise programs, and giving them a safe place to socialize with other children their own age. In so doing, the Club offers young New Yorkers a constructive alternative to truancy, violence, street gangs, drug abuse and teenage pregnancy. Variety Boys and Girls Club members can swim in an Olympic-

size indoor swimming pool, participate in a drama group or a cheerleading team, or use the club's Calder Knowledge Lab to do homework, use computers and receive tutoring. The club also provides flute, guitar, and karate lessons, along with many other stimulating and constructive programs. In short, the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens gives local kids an opportunity to succeed in whatever field inspires them.

The foregoing would not have been possible without the club's many supporters, including tonight's honoree, Chuck Viane. Mr. Viane, President of Buena Vista Pictures Distribution, is the recipient of the club's 2005 Humanitarian Award for his dedication to public service. Mr. Viane has worked closely with the organization and has coordinated such activities as a Variety Club program to purchase two neonatal ventilators for St. Francis Hospital in Los Angeles. Mr. Viane's generosity has helped the club become an even stronger force in the community, a fact for which I am most grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the staff, volunteers and friends of the Variety Boys and Girls Club.

HONORING FLINT MASONIC LODGE NO. 23, F&AM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as my hometown of Flint, Michigan celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, I rise before you today to honor an organization that is also celebrating its sesquicentennial. On June 18, Flint residents are invited to join Flint Masonic Lodge No. 23, Free & Accepted Masons will invite the public to join in their commemoration festivities, which include a parade, reception, and banquet.

Based in the Flint Masonic Temple on South Saginaw Street in downtown Flint, Flint Masonic Lodge 23 was chartered on January 11, 1855, becoming another branch of America's oldest and largest fraternal organization. The new members, coming from all walks of life, now counted emperors, kings, and even many of our Founding Fathers as brethren.

Some of Flint's most prominent citizens have been or currently are members of the Masonic fraternity. Several of the city's Mayors, including Charles Stewart Mott, Colonel James Fenton, Harry Cull, George Poulous, James Rutherford, and current Mayor Don Williamson, can be counted among their ranks. Many city streets were named in honor of business and civic leaders who also served as Masons. Their legacy has become an integral part of Flint's history, and its heritage.

Flint Masons have been selflessly committed to improving the community and enhancing human dignity. They are often found at the forefront of charitable drives to benefit the less fortunate, the disabled, and both our younger and older citizens. Their efforts have benefited thousands, and have indeed made the Greater Flint area a better place in which to live.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in congratulating the members, past and present, of Flint Masonic Lodge No. 23, F&AM, on their celebration of a true milestone, and wish the Lodge continued success and growth for the next 150 years and beyond.

lating the members, past and present, of Flint Masonic Lodge No. 23, F&AM, on their celebration of a true milestone, and wish the Lodge continued success and growth for the next 150 years and beyond.

RECOGNIZING OPERATION SLUGGER

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a fantastic program aimed at boosting the morale of our soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Operation Slugger is a partnership between the Association for the U.S. Army, AUSA, DHL Express, Louisville Slugger, USA Cares, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, focused on providing sporting equipment for recreational activities for our soldiers in the field. This partnership is a response to the numerous requests from U.S. soldiers asking for sports equipment for use during their leisure time.

I am proud to represent Fort Knox, which is one of the many locations across the country, including VFW posts and private businesses, where new and gently used equipment is being collected to make up sports kits. These kits will consist of baseball bats and balls, softball and baseball gloves, hats, footballs, basketballs, rugby balls, and soccer balls. The donated goods, which are expected to exceed 20 tons, will be transported by DHL to Louisville Slugger Field and on to the U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan.

As the men and women of our military put their lives on the line for us, I want to thank these organizations for giving something back to the troops. Please join me in thanking AUSA, DHL, Louisville Slugger, USA Cares, the VFW, and all of the people who have participated for their contributions to Operation Slugger.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan program.

The 7(a) loan program is essential for our nation's small business owners. It provides accessible and affordable financing that enables such businesses to grow, which in turn leads to the creation of jobs so desperately needed in the current economy. In the past 10 years, the SBA has approved more than 424,000 loans totaling over \$90 billion. These loans

have created jobs and economic opportunities for countless Americans.

Small business owners are the backbone of our nation's economy. Representing more than 99.7 percent of all U.S. employers, small businesses are the number one job creator in this nation. They employ more than half of all private sector employees and generate 60 to 80 percent of net new jobs annually. In Houston, 98 percent of the more than 350,000 businesses are small businesses.

Funding for this program was eliminated for FY 2005 and the cost of it was shifted to small businesses and community-based lenders. This has caused small businesses to be charged with high upfront fees which keep many from being able to obtain the financing they need. In fact, small business lending has declined every quarter for a total of half a billion dollars so far this year.

As policy-makers, we have a responsibility to the communities we represent to help them achieve economic strength. Therefore, we must provide small businesses with the resources they need to grow and flourish. One of the most effective ways to do this is to reinstate funding for the 7(a) loan program. If we fail to do this, the 9th Congressional District of Texas and Congressional Districts all over the country will suffer negative impacts.

For these reasons, I support the restoration of funding for the 7(a) loan program to its FY 2004 level of \$79 million. I also urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Velázquez amendment.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS HOME-OWNERSHIP ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce crucial legislation with my colleague from Hawaii, Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE, reauthorizing the Hawaiian Home Lands Homeownership Act of 2000. Our bill simply reauthorizes the program for FY 2006 through FY 2009.

Established in 2000 through Title VIII of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA), the Hawaiian Home Lands Homeownership Act provides affordable housing opportunities to Native Hawaiian families living on the Hawaiian Home Lands of Hawaii.

The Hawaiian Home Lands program, authorized by the federal government under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, is currently being administered by the State of Hawaii's Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. The Department receives over \$9 million annually from Title VIII of NAHASDA. The rest of its funds come from the State of Hawaii as well as revenues derived from its own assets and commercial activities.

Funds provided through the Hawaiian Home Lands Homeownership Act, which is the first significant infusion of federal housing for Native Hawaiians assistance since the Hawaiian Home Lands program began in 1921, have been well-utilized and administered through the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to service our under-served Native Hawaiian

communities across the state. Funds have been used for: Infrastructure construction of approximately 200 residential lots; Technical assistance for 110 families constructing their homes using the selfhelp method or with the assistance of Habitat for Humanity; Homeownership counseling for over 300 families; Assistance to community associations to construct or renovate community facilities; and Downpayment assistance and low interest loans to families.

As the housing needs of all of our Hawaii grow more and more critical, particularly given our small land base, any improvement to Native Hawaiian housing needs helps not only our Hawaiian community but all communities in our state.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate, where a companion bill was introduced by Senator DANIEL INOUE, on passage of this important legislation. Mahalo!

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBROY INDUSTRIES COMPANY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of Robroy Industries Company, which is the privately held parent company of Stahlin Non-Metallic Enclosures, a large and progressive employer since 1935 in Belding, Michigan, which is in the Third Congressional District of Michigan.

On June 18, Robroy officials will be celebrating their centennial with an event at their Belding facility. The company was founded as the Enameled Metals Company in 1905 by Scottish immigrant Peter McIlroy in Etna, Pennsylvania. The company's headquarters were relocated to Verona, Pennsylvania in 1958, and in 1977 the renamed Robroy Industries acquired the Stahlin operation in Belding. Today, the company's five plants in Pennsylvania, Texas and Michigan and its headquarters employ about 350 workers.

Stahlin Enclosures is a widely recognized leader in the electrical products industry, making fiberglass electrical enclosures that are used worldwide. The nearly 90 Stahlin officials and employees are very active in their community, contributing to the Belding Public Schools band and athletic programs, the Belding scholarship program, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Special Olympics and other charities. The company also was named one of "West Michigan's 101 Best & Brightest Companies to Work For" by a local publication.

I hope you join me in congratulating Robroy Industries Company on their century of business and their subsidiary, Stahlin Enclosures, for their 70 years of business in Belding, Michigan.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD AND THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR HISTORY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first racially integrated civil rights movement in this country: the Underground Railroad. I recognize the author of the first highly regarded and well researched book on this topic to be written in 100 years, Fergus M. Bordewich. In "Bound for Canaan: The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America," Fergus Bordewich has revealed the truth behind the myth of the Underground Railroad. I was privileged this evening to host with Senator CHARLES SCHUMER of New York a reception to recognize the contribution this new book is making to a greater awareness and understanding of the history of slavery and racial oppression in this Nation and of the heroic efforts of brave Americans to resist these evils.

The myth which generations of Americans have believed is that the Underground Railroad was a monochromatic narrative of high-minded whites assisting terrified helpless blacks to freedom. This myth disintegrates in the powerful true stories of the heroes of the Underground Railroad. The railroad was not a system of tracks. The railroad consisted of people along routes in rural areas and forested areas in cities and on plantations: people who for political and spiritual and religious reasons had one goal: to free human beings from slavery.

In "Bound for Canaan," Mr. Bordewich delivers a powerful message in the gripping personal stories of the heroes who were the Underground Railroad, the slaves and the free. Mr. Bordewich writes in his introduction: "Only recently have African Americans begun to be restored to their rightful place at the center of the story. But the Underground Railroad is no more 'Black history' than it is 'White history': it is American history, and it swept into its orbit courageous Americans of every hue. It was the country's first racially integrated civil rights movement in which whites and blacks worked together for six decades before the Civil War, taking great risks together, saving tens of thousands of lives together and ultimately succeeding together in one of the most ambitious political undertakings in American history."

This political undertaking has not ended; it has continued. Blacks and whites worked together in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s; some paying the ultimate price to bring the freedom that had not yet been fully realized in the South because Blacks could not vote. On June 13, 2005, jury selection began in Philadelphia Mississippi in the Civil Rights case against Edgar Ray Killen for the slayings of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, three young civil rights workers, white and black, brutally killed in 1964. Together with thousands of others, Black and White, took great risks in the tradition of the people who were the Underground Railroad, ultimately bringing the vote to the descendants of the slaves the Underground Railroad saved. They are not forgotten. People of good will have kept their memories alive and their

cause alive. The trial now is important because it reminds us of the high price of freedom and who has paid that price.

Emmett Till's case has been reopened and this reopening is important for the same reason. He was 14 years old in 1955 when on a visit to his relatives in Mississippi he was kidnapped from his uncle's house. When Emmett Till's body was found and returned to his mother in Chicago, it was so disfigured from beating and torture that his mother almost didn't recognize him. She refused offers from the funeral home to clean up his battered body. For his funeral, she insisted on an open casket. The two men tried for the murder were acquitted by a jury of 12 white men. However in a 1956 article in *Look* magazine, these two men confessed to Emmett Till's brutal murder. The article, pictures of Emmett Till and the confessions reenergized the Civil Rights movement. People all over America were outraged. Artistic works drawing on the incident included the first play by eventual Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, a poem by Langston Hughes and a song by Bob Dylan.

On May 10, 2004, the United States Department of Justice announced that it would reopen the case, an action that many had been calling for to determine if others had been involved in the kidnapping and murder of Emmett Till. In October 2004, the Justice Department confirmed it was focused on two people who had not been charged in the original trial. On June 1, 2005, the body of Emmett Till was exhumed. Through the work of many people, Black and White, this child's killers may finally be brought to justice.

On June 13, 2005, the Senate apologized for refusing in the past to make lynching a federal crime. This was an important vote for the Senate to take. It shows that we as Americans can recognize and take responsibility for terrible mistakes of our past.

It also reminds us that the Underground Railroad was "illegal" and many who helped slaves to freedom broke the law. Slaves were property and were expected to be returned to their owners if discovered attempting to run away. The Fugitive Slave Act voted into Law on August 26, 1850 made anyone who hindered a slave catcher, attempted the rescue of a recaptured fugitive, directly or indirectly assisted a fugitive to escape, or harbored a fugitive, liable to a fine of up to one thousand dollars and six months' imprisonment, plus damages of one thousand dollars to the owner for each slave that was lost. Even with the enactment of the law, the Underground Railroad continued its work.

Now we know the crime was slavery. Just as we now recognize lynching was a heinous crime, we must come to see that the laws of the day contributed to the oppression of the Black race by the White majority.

The truth is always important no matter when we learn it. We thank Fergus M. Bordewich for his excellent history of the Underground Railroad.

Reviews of "Bound for Canaan" from *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Yorker*, *Publishers Weekly*, and other publications have given this book high praise.

John J. Miller of the *Wall Street Journal* wrote Fergus M. Bordewich "has written an excellent book that is probably as close to a definitive history as we are likely to see."

Cornell West, University Professor of Religion, Princeton University, and author of

"Race Matters" wrote "This is a masterful story—a deeply American story— of the quest for freedom. This multi-racial movement is still a beacon of hope in our present dark times."

For today, Mr. Speaker, it is important that we reflect on the importance of the racially integrated Civil Rights movement that began with the Underground Railroad and continues today. The men and women who challenged slavery, the policy of segregation, and the policies of racism should be commended for their deeds. They should have the full appreciation of this Nation. Mr. Fergus M. Bordewich deserves the thanks of this Nation for an important book on the history of the first racially integrated civil rights movement in this country.

140TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUNETEENTH

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 140th anniversary of Juneteenth. On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger of the Union Army arrived in Galveston, Texas with news of the Emancipation Proclamation and the end of the Civil War. Although President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863, it took almost two and a half years for the Proclamation to be enforced throughout all of the United States.

The 140th anniversary of Juneteenth is a significant milestone in American history. Juneteenth is a reference point from which to appreciate the progress made by African Americans in our society. The 140th anniversary coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955 and the 40th anniversary of Congressional enactment of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

I would like to congratulate Representative DANNY DAVIS of Illinois for his resolution recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth. As Representative DAVIS says, "History should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the future." As we look back and honor the past, let us celebrate the progress we have made as a Nation.

The Voting Rights Act, arguably the most successful piece of civil rights legislation ever, is set to expire in 2007. Congress and the President must reauthorize the act to ensure fairness in our political process and equal opportunity for minorities in American politics. Congress must also address the unfortunate disparities facing African Americans, which persist in every aspect of daily life. I congratulate my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus who have created an agenda to address these inequalities. We as Americans must work to eliminate injustices and move toward the goal of full equality.

COMMENDING AMERICANS WRITE

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Americans Write, an organization that

is committed to helping the people of Northern Michigan contact their elected officials.

Americans Write builds on the success of other well-known national opinion ballot organizations, by incorporating issues of the day in its monthly newsletters. By focusing on issues that are most important to its recipients, Americans Write provides the opportunity and inspiration for individuals to engage in the democratic process.

It is important that all Americans become involved in our government, to ensure that their voices are heard. As Americans become increasingly busy, it becomes more important to have organizations like Americans Write to facilitate easy communication with their elected officials.

I commend Americans Write for their efforts in keeping representatives at every level of government apprised of the issues important to the American people.

A CALL FOR MORE THAN A SENATORIAL APOLOGY FOR NOT PASSING ANTI-LYNCHING LAWS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to respond to the Senate's apology for not passing anti-lynching legislation.

The Senate adopted a Resolution this week apologizing for its refusal to pass anti-lynching bills. It acted on June 13, 2005 to apologize for decades of failure to enact a law that would have stopped the systematic torture and murder of thousands; decades during which the U.S. Congress knowingly perpetuated the practice of lynching. Seven presidents asked Congress to outlaw lynching, almost 200 anti-lynching bills were introduced and the House passed anti-lynching legislation three times, but southern filibusters killed all three bills.

The Senate stood by as over 4,700 people, mostly African American, were reportedly lynched between 1882 and 1968. Victims of these horrific acts were subjected to public humiliation. Most were beaten and some were even burned alive amidst the cheering of racist mobs. Their bodies were often left hanging in their communities as a warning to other African Americans, emphasizing the purposeful use of violence and torture by the White majority in America as a tool of oppression of the Black minority.

Although the Senate is being praised for admitting one of the many injustices that have shaped this country, there is still more work to be done. Only 80 of the 100 senators cosponsored the resolution and the senators that did co-sponsor the resolution were able to avoid putting themselves on record because the resolution passed by voice vote. There still appears to be reluctance, even today, on the part of many senators to publicly apologize for the complicity of the Senate in allowing the perpetration of systematic acts of terrorism against African Americans.

Lynching has destroyed generations of African American families. Today, African American communities are still suffering at the hands of injustice. The increasing prison population, disparities in public schools and lack of access to healthcare services continue to dis-able African Americans. We must have the

apology become the beginning of a serious effort to examine the consequences of the oppression of African Americans symbolized by the practice of lynching, consequences which continue to afflict this community today.

Let us address these problems now instead of apologizing for them later.

The following New York Times article by Sheryl Gay Stolberg discusses the Senate action.

SENATE ISSUES APOLOGY OVER FAILURE ON
LYNCHING LAW

Anthony Crawford's granddaughter went to her grave without speaking a word to her own children about his lynching, so painful was the family history. On Monday, Mr. Crawford's descendants came to the Capitol to tell it—and to accept a formal apology from the Senate for its repeated failure, despite the requests of seven presidents, to enact a federal law to make lynching a crime.

The formal apology, adopted by voice vote, was issued decades after senators blocked antilynching bills by filibuster. The resolution is the first time that members of Congress, who have apologized to Japanese-Americans for their internment in World War II and to Hawaiians for the overthrow of their kingdom, have apologized to African-Americans for any reason, proponents of the measure said.

"The Senate failed you and your ancestors and our nation," Senator Mary L. Landrieu of Louisiana, chief Democratic sponsor of the resolution, said at a luncheon attended by 200 family members and descendants of victims. They included 100 relatives of Anthony Crawford, as well as a 91-year-old man

believed to be the only known survivor of an attempted lynching.

He is James Cameron, who in 1930, as a 16-year-old shoeshine boy in Marion, Ind., was accused with two friends of murdering a white man and raping a white woman. His friends were killed. But as Mr. Cameron felt a noose being slipped around his neck, a man in the crowd stepped forward to proclaim Mr. Cameron's innocence. Mr. Cameron came here in a gray suit and a wheelchair, his voice shaky but his memories apparently fresh.

They took the rope off my neck, those hands that had been so rough and ready to kill or had already killed, they took the rope off of my neck and they allowed me to start walking and stagger back to the jail, which was just a half-block away," Mr. Cameron told a news conference. "When I got back to the jail, the sheriff said, 'I'm going to get you out of here for safekeeping.'"

He learned only later, he said, that the sheriff was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. "I was saved," Mr. Cameron said, "by a miracle."

There have been 4,742 recorded lynchings in American history, Ms. Landrieu said.

Historians suspect that many more went undocumented. Although the House passed antilynching legislation three times in the first half of the 20th century, the Senate, controlled by Southern conservatives, repeatedly refused to do so. Senator George Allen of Virginia, chief Republican sponsor of the new resolution, called it "this stain on the history of the United States Senate."

Although the Senate garnered praise on Monday for acting to erase that stain, some critics said lawmakers had a long way to go. Of the 100 senators, 80 were co-sponsors of the resolution, and because it passed by

voice vote, senators escaped putting themselves on record.

"It's a statement in itself that there aren't 100 co-sponsors," Senator John Kerry, Democrat of Massachusetts, said. "It's a statement in itself that there's not an up-or-down vote."

Others described the resolution as an act of expediency for Mr. Allen, who is a likely presidential candidate and who has been criticized for displaying a Confederate flag at his home and a noose in his law office. Mr. Allen said that they were part of collections of flags and Western paraphernalia and that he was motivated not by politics, but by a plea by Dick Gregory, the civil rights advocate, who wrote him a letter urging him not to "choose to do nothing."

The memories were especially painful for the relatives of Anthony Crawford, whose family was torn apart by the lynching. Mr. Crawford had been a wealthy black landowner in Abbeville, S.C., a cotton farmer, registered voter and community leader who founded a school for black children and a union for black families. In 1916, after a dispute with a white man over the price of cotton seed, he was hanged from a pine tree and shot more than 200 times. His family lost his land, and the relatives scattered.

"Someone is finally recognizing our pain," said Alberta Merriwether, a retired schoolteacher who is his great-granddaughter and whose mother never spoke of the lynching.

Mrs. Merriwether's aunt Magdalene Latimer, 84, was not so certain about the senators. "I have to let God be the judge," Ms. Latimer said, "because I don't know if they meant it out of their heart or they're just saying it out of their mouth."

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 21

- 10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine regulatory relief proposals.
SD-538
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Coast Guard's revised deepwater implementation plan.
SR-253
- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine issues relating to juvenile diabetes, focusing on the personal toll on families, financial costs to the Federal health care system, and research progress toward a cure.
SH-216
- Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine the issue of voter verification in the Federal elections process.
SR-301
- 2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Larry Miles Dinger, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Fiji Islands, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Kiribati, Joseph A. Mussomeli, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, and Emil A. Skodon, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.
SD-419
- 3 p.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Business meeting to markup H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for

the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006.

SD-192

JUNE 22

- 9:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold an oversight hearing to examine grants management within the Environmental Protection Agency.
SD-406
- Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the In Re Tribal Lobbying Matters, Et Al.
SH-216
- 10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine telecom mergers.
SR-253
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD-430
- 10:30 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999.
SR-328A
- 2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Aviation Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine financial stability of airlines.
SR-253

JUNE 23

- 10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SR-253
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine Family Medical Leave Act.
SD-430
- Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine pending veterans benefits related legislation.
SR-418
- 2 p.m.
Appropriations
Business meeting to markup H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for the Legislative Branch.
SD-106

JUNE 28

- 10 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 and related crop insurance issues.
SR-328A
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Global Climate Change and Impacts Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine coastal impacts.
SR-253
- Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine regulation of Indian gaming.
Room to be announced
- Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 206, to designate the Ice Age Floods National

Geologic Trail, S. 556, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly conduct a study of certain land adjacent to the Walnut Canyon National Monument in the State of Arizona, S. 588, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Arizona Trail as a national scenic trail or a national historic trail, and S. 955, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including in the National Park System certain sites in Williamson County, Tennessee, relating to the Battle of Franklin.
SD-366

JUNE 29

- 9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider pending committee issues.
SR-485
- 10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine Spectrum-DTV.
SR-253
- 2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Disaster Prevention and Prediction Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine national weather service-severe weather.
SR-253

JUNE 30

- 10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine e-health initiatives.
SR-253
- 2 p.m.
Appropriations
Business meeting to markup H.R. 2528, making appropriations for military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of State, and proposed legislation making appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for foreign operations.
SD-106

- 3 p.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Education and Early Childhood Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine issues relating to American history.
SD-430

SEPTEMBER 20

- 10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.
345 CHOB